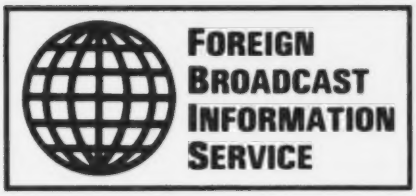

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-148
Thursday
3 August 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-148 *3 August 1989*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad Movement Hails Higgins' Killing *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
Commentary on Execution *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
Egypt Reportedly Mediating 'Arafat U.S. Visa *[Muscat Radio]* 2
Egyptian Daily on 'Israeli Message' to 'Arafat *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 29 Jul]* 2
Commentary Assesses Shamir's Election Position *[Algiers VOP]* 2
USSR Position Considered *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Jul]* 3
Arabs Warned About Selling Property to Settlers *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
PLO Stops Funding Territories Via Jordan Banks *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 31 Jul]* 3
Pro-Jordan Palestinians Form Political Party *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 26 Jul]* 4
Fatah Congress To Begin in Tunis 3 Aug *[INA]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives Phone Call From Bush *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Prime Minister Forms Administrative Reform Body *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Ain Benian Detainees Release Noted 31 Jul *[Algiers Radio]* 5

Egypt

Commentary Blames Israel for Higgins Killing *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Paper Says Abduction 'International Piracy' *[AL-AKHBAR 1 Aug]* 6
Kidnapping Said To Cover Up Israeli Operation *[MENA]* 6
Workers' Strike at Steel Plant Reported 6
500 Workers Arrested *[AFP]* 6
MENA on End of Strike 7
Union Issues Statement *[MENA]* 7

Libya

Reportage on Visit of Sudanese Leader Al-Bashir 8
Arrives 2 Aug *[JANA]* 8
Received by Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 8

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Negotiations, Juba Situation *[Omdurman Radio]* 8
Decree Confiscates Dissolved Parties' Property *[Omdurman Radio]* 9
Command Council Establishes Prices Courts *[Omdurman Radio]* 9
Al-Bashir Receives Ethiopian, Other Envoys 22 Jul *[Omdurman Radio]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Minister Conveys Amir's Message to President Bush *[WAKH]* 10

Kuwait

Editorial Implicates U.S. in 'Ubayd Abduction *[AL-RAY AL-'AMM 1 Aug]* 10

Saudi Arabia

Bush Telephones King Fahd, Discusses Lebanon *[SPA]* 10
Conversation Linked to Hostages *[Tehran Radio]* 10
Commentary Views 'Failure' of Lebanon Mediation *[Riyadh Radio]* 10

Yemen Arab Republic

Airline Official Cited on Istanbul Incident *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Jul]* 11
Salih Receives Message From Turkish President *[Sanaa Radio]* 11
President Salih Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Sanaa Radio]* 11
PDRY Education Minister Arrives With Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 11
Received by President *[Sanaa Radio]* 12

IRAQ

'Aziz Urges Arab Summit After Committee's Failure *[INA]* 13
Ramadan Returns From Jordan Trip, Makes Statement *[INA]* 13
Minister Comments on Multiparty System, U.S. Ties *[Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH 31 Jul]* 14
AL-THAWRAH: Iran Obstructing Peace March *[INA]* 15

ISRAEL

Peres Denies Talks With Lebanese Organizations *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 16
Shamir 'Confident' of Achieving Prisoner Exchange *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Ministry Welcomes Efforts To Free Hostages *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Rabin Comments on Hostage Exchange, Elections *[Jerusalem TV]* 16
Arens Says Hizballah 'Under Heavy Pressure' *[Tel Aviv TV]* 19
U.S. Reaction to 'Ubayd Affair 'Embarrassing' *[HADASHOT 31 Jul]* 20
U.S. Said To Seek 'Scapegoats' in Hostage Affair *['AL HAMISHMAR 2 Aug]* 21
South Lebanese Shiites Warn Iran Over Hostage *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Netanyahu on Bringing Foreign Forces into Jordan *[Jerusalem International]* 21
Al-Tarifi Leaves for Jordan Amid Death Threats *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Palestinians See Kelly Meeting as U.S.-PLO Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22

JORDAN

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives With Message for King *[Amman TV]* 23
King Receives Saddam Message *[Amman TV]* 23
Ibn-Shakir, Al-Qasim Return From Jeddah 2 Aug *[Amman Radio]* 23
Paper on Higgins Killing, Israeli 'Lawlessness' *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Aug]* 23
Editorial Calls For Arab Efforts in Lebanon *[AL-DUSTUR 3 Aug]* 24
Committees Begin Revising Voter Lists *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Aug]* 24

LEBANON

Cicippio Execution Further Delayed 4 Hours *[AFP]* 25
Further on Delay *[AFP]* 25
RJO Substitutes Initiative for Cicippio Sentence *[VOL]* 25
Hizballah's Al-Musawi Threatens United States 25
'Violent' Revenge Threatened *[VOM]* 25
Further on Al-Musawi Remarks *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 26
Hizballah Denies 'Ubayd Involved in Terrorism *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 26
Shiite Leader on Kidnappings, Arab Committee Role *[Beirut Radio]* 26

Rafsanjani's Brother Linked to Higgins' Death *[INA]* 26
Pope Ready To Mediate in Lebanon Hostage Crisis *[Rome ANSA]* 27
UN Envoy Goulding Meets With Fadlallah *[VOL]* 27
Asks Fadlallah To Intervene *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Comments on Meeting *[RFL]* 28
Israeli Reinforcements Reported in South *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Amal-Hizballah Clashes Southeast of Sidon Noted *[RFL]* 28
Syrian, Lebanese Armies Exchange Fire 2 Aug *[RFL]* 28
Soldiers Killed in Infiltration Try *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 28
Organization Threatens Pro-Syrian Leader in Tripoli *[RFL]* 29

SYRIA

More Foreign Reaction on Col Higgins, 'Ubayd *[Damascus Radio]* 30
'Awn Blamed for Failure of Arab Committee *[Station on Damascus Radio]* 30
'Awn-Saddam-Israel 'Alliance' Over Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 30
Al-Asad on Lebanon Role to Expatriates *[Damascus TV]* 31
Al-Asad Sends Cable to Egyptian Lawyers Union *[Damascus Radio]* 31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

AFP Cites Kabul Spokesman on Stockholm Talks 33
More Mujahidin Rockets Found Near Kabul *[AFP]* 33
Mujahidin Operations in Various Places Noted *[Islamabad Radio]* 33
Civilians Killed by Bombings From Kabul Aircraft *[Islamabad Radio]* 33
Military Operations Continue Around Jalalabad *[BAKHTAR]* 34
Mujahidin Leader 'Abdul Hasan Interviewed *[London AL-HAWADITH 28 Jul]* 34

Bangladesh

Ershad Leaves Hospital 2 Aug, Resumes Activities *[AFP]* 35
Minister Leaves for Bhutan To Discuss SAARC *[Dhaka Radio]* 35
Joint Agreement With Pakistan To Expand Trade *[Dhaka Radio]* 35

India

Sri Lanka's Perumal Leaves for Delhi To Join Taiks *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Talks End Without Agreement *[AFP]* 36
Rao Says Nepal Proposes Changes to Talks Agenda *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Assesses Negotiations *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Official Denies Interruption of Nepal's Oil Supply *[AFP]* 37
Sikh Militants Kill Communist Leader in Punjab *[AFP]* 37
Minister on Pakistani Weapons Buildup, U.S. Aid *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Daily Assesses Pakistan's Military Buildup *[PATRIOT 18 Jul]* 38
Two More Opposition Members of Parliament Resign *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Parliamentarian Fired for Joining Opposition Front *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Opposition Member Accused of Backing Separatists *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Opposition Behavior, Resignations Criticized *[Delhi Radio]* 40
USSR Offers Credit for Power Stations, Lines *[Delhi TV]* 40
Taxation Agreement Signed With GDR in New Delhi *[Delhi TV]* 40
Petroleum Minister Views Oil Production, Demand *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Computerization Plans, Electronics Exports Noted *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 19 Jul]* 41
Narora Atomic Power Station Unit Synchronized *[Delhi TV]* 41
Minister Views TV, Radio Network Expansion Plan *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Low-Power Transmitter Inaugurated *[Delhi TV]* 41
45 New FM Radio Stations Planned for Mar 1990 *[Delhi Radio]* 41

Iran

Khamene'i Confirms Hashemi-Rafsanjani President *[IRNA]* 42
TEHRAN TIMES Cited on 'Hostage Crisis' *[IRNA]* 42
UN Urged To Stop Israeli 'State Terrorism' *[IRNA]* 43
Ayatollah Khamene'i Addresses Clergy on Role *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Invited To Visit India *[IRNA]* 44
Indian Envoy Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Syrian President Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Meshkini Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Bahonar Refutes Reports on Secret Talks With U.S. *[TEHRAN TIMES 26 Jul]* 45
Editorial Discusses Amal-Hizballah Relations *[TEHRAN TIMES 27 Jul]* 46
Receipt of Arms, Increase in Exercises Reported *[Cairo AL-WAFD 29 Jul]* 46
Greek Official Denies Problem With Granting Visas *[IRNA]* 47
Envoy Briefs Greek Official on Talks With Iraq *[IRNA]* 47
Tudeh Party Radio on Khomeyni-Montazeri Split *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* 48
Nateq-Nuri on Political Parties, Ahmad Khomeyni *[IRNA]* 48
Editorial Comments on Relations With Japan *[TEHRAN TIMES 26 Jul]* 48
Flag of Freedom 'Combatants' Broadcast in Tehran *[Flag of Freedom Radio]* 49
Statement on 5 Aug Anniversary *[Flag of Freedom Radio]* 49
Khuzestan Governor General Views Reconstruction *[Tehran Radio]* 49
War-Damaged Power Plant Resumes Operation *[IRNA]* 50
Population Increases by 19 Million in Last Decade *[IRNA]* 50
Narcotic Smugglers Arrested in Kerman Province *[Tehran Radio]* 50

Nepal

Minister Regrets India's Disinterest in Talks *[AFP]* 50
India Detains More Oil Tankers at Border *[AFP]* 51
Indian Port Closure Causes Fuel Rationing *[AFP]* 51
Economic Commission Session With Pakistan Begins *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Pakistan's Piracha Holds Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
AFP Details Meeting 52
$1 Million Loan Agreement Signed *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
King Meets Pakistani Minister *[AFP]* 53
Commission Issues Closing Statement *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Civil Aviation, Tourism Talks With USSR Conclude *[AFP]* 53

Pakistan

Papers Report Casualties From 31 Jul Scud Attack *[AFP]* 54
Bhutto: Government To Privatize Major Industries *[AFP]* 54
May 1990 Privatization Announced *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Minister of State for Defense Returns From Iran *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Editorial Assesses Cooperation With India *[THE MUSLIM 23 Jul]* 55
Junejo Accuses Government of Seeking 'Vengeance' *[AFP]* 56
Iranian Envoy Attends Martyr Anniversary Ceremony *[IRNA]* 56
Ishaq Khan Greets Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Election *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Bhutto Promises Relief in Flooded Areas of Punjab *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Amnesty International Group Meets Justice Minister *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Commerce Minister on Rice Exports to Iran, Syria *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Oil Discovered at Exploratory Well Near Islamabad *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Heroin Seized From UNHCR Vehicle 2 Aug *[AFP]* 57

Sri Lanka

Bomb Explosions, Gunfire Rock Colombo 2 Aug *[AFP]* 58
6 Policemen Injured *[Delhi Radio]* 58
12 Killed in Separate Violent Incidents *[Delhi TV]* 58
Bangladesh Wishes Success in Talks With India *[Colombo International]* 58

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad Movement Hails Higgins' Killing

JN0208193889 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Statement by the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine"; date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Then fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every strategem of war. [Koranic verses] Killing and terrorism will be the language of the oppressed until the West and America return to their senses.

O free men everywhere. Millions of oppressed people in the world, the deprived and downtrodden, are the fruit of the alliance among the criminal trinity: the West, America, and the Zionist entity—the trinity which filled the whole world with clamor about human rights, culture, and civilization, and which spread terror and backwardness on earth. This trinity is the maker of war, the producer of its tools, and the planner of its lines and pathways. How long are we going to allow this dirty trinity to call our new-born babies bastards and give legitimate names to bastards?

O free men in the world. As oppressed people whose rights have been usurped, we regard ourselves as having historical scores to settle with the West, America, and the Zionist entity. Therefore, we bless the faithful hand entrusted by God to carry out God's just judgment on the American Bush-Higgins [as heard]. We pledge to all the oppressed on earth that all of the oppressed Palestinians are soldiers for the same purpose until we satisfy the desires of our people, relieve the bitterness in our hearts, liberate our homeland and nation, and establish among the people the law of the God of mankind.

We assure everyone that the heroes of the intifadah [uprising] and those who court martyrdom will never rest as some want them to do. Soon will they know how to celebrate the presence of the mujahid Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

O steadfast and free people. America is killing us in Palestine, in the Gulf, and in Lebanon; and is pursuing us in Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Hijaz, Maghreb, and everywhere. America is the plague and the plague is America. The whole world will never know security and stability unless the cancer is eliminated and the plague eradicated. May God have mercy on the imam who is in our midst and who decided that we will rub America's nose into the dust and uproot the Zionist entity from existence. [sentence as heard]

Commentary on Execution

JN0208174089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1037 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Political editor's commentary: "Snowball 1"]

[Text] When the Zionists abducted Shaykh 'Ubayd, imam of the Jibshit mosque, landed their commandos there by helicopters, obstructed the roads leading to the home of Shaykh 'Ubayd, encircled the building, and killed his neighbor; when the green light was given by the terrorist troika in the Zionist entity—Yitzhaq Shamir, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Dan Shomron—for carrying out the abduction, all of them knew that the abduction would not go unnoticed. They knew that there would be reactions, and also that these reactions would escalate, and be different and numerous, just as the snowball is small in the beginning but grows bigger until it sweeps all before it.

Apart from the developments which this commentary cannot catch up with because of the speed of these developments, we find it appropriate to answer several questions posed at present. We will also follow up the developments of the abduction operation.

The first question that comes to mind is the following: Why did the terrorist establishment carry out this operation under the eyes of the entire world and at this particular time? The answer is simple and brief. The Zionist entity always depends on the support provided by the U.S. Administration—the support used to cover up for all of this entity's actions and deeds. Besides, the U.S. Administration is always ready to use the veto at the UN Security Council. Moreover, the United States is ready to launch a media campaign to cover up for the Zionists' act of abducting Shaykh 'Ubayd. Thus, it supports this terrorist operation. The United States will find excuses for this operation. It will be insolent enough to rebuke the kidnapped Shaykh 'Ubayd and acquit the terrorist abductor.

The second question is: Why did Hizballah threaten to kill U.S. hostage Colonel William Higgins instead of threatening to kill the Zionist pilot held captive by people who are close to Hizballah? The answer is that Hizballah knows the root and the branch, knows who created whom, and also knows who carries out the tasks and who assigns them. The root is the United States and the branch in our region is the Zionist entity. The reverse applies when issues concern U.S. positions and policy. Then, the Zionist entity becomes the root at the disposal of which the United States places its power, strength, its espionage network, and its connections.

The abduction operation carried out by the troika—Shamir, Rabin, and Shomron—revealed two thing on Monday afternoon, 31 July 1989. The first is that Rabin spoke to reporters before the Knesset building after a meeting of his Inner Cabinet and said that he only abducted the shaykh to influence the issue pertaining to

his prisoners and the hostages. The abduction was actually designed to show the West, in coordination with the United States, that the Zionist entity is the only party which can serve as a terrorizing agent capable of exercising organized terrorism to secure the release of the hostages through hostage-taking. This entity initiated the injustice and claimed that it is [word indistinct] of injustice too.

The second issue pertains to the fact that Rabin himself, who was not concerned even after the execution of the Amerian colonel, reaffirmed that the release of Shaykh 'Ubyad cannot take place except through negotiations with Hizballah to bring about the release of his prisoners. Rabin added that the execution of the American colonel will change nothing. At this point in time, the American President was interrupting a scheduled tour of some states and, while in flight, called members of the National Security Council for an urgent meeting to study developments.

The situation has developed, has it not? However, we believe it is the beginning of a snowball which will grow bigger and bigger, hour after hour. There is a Palestinian proverb which says: If it does not get bigger, it will never get smaller. Everybody knows this proverb. Do we support the proverb's message, particularly at this time? We believe that the circumstances are serious; and that the alliances on Lebanese territory between the Zionists and some collaborators, the abduction operation, the timing—which coincided with the destructive shelling of West Beirut, the mountain area, and Al-Biqa'—are greatly significant. The significance is that the situation is delicate and extremely critical. We must observe the maximum level of alertness and surveillance and carefully examine the issue and its developments. The snowball which is growing bigger might run into something unforeseeable. Besides, the snowball might fall into a bottomless abyss. Moreover, it might be the beginning of something in the future which might be more serious. In any case, we believe that it is proper to register the following remarks:

First, the entire abduction operation, the developments accompanying it, and the consequences resulting from it on Monday afternoon 31 July 1989 poured more oil on the fires raging in Lebanon.

Second, President Bush is facing an unprecedented challenge. He cannot invent any excuse to call the abduction operation carried out by his Zionist ally anything other than terrorism.

Third, the abduction operation and the ensuing developments which have materialized so far will continue to develop. However, these developments might involve geographic locations other than Lebanon. Still, Lebanese territory remains the first area expected to be the scene of an operation and of a deployment of troops. We will discuss the issue further later on. God is with us and victory is close at hand. Let us remain together on the road of liberating both land and man.

Egypt Reportedly Mediating 'Arafat U.S. Visa

JN0208134289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Egypt has decided to hold close contacts with the U.S. Administration during the coming days to convince it to grant Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, an entry visa to New York to attend the UN General Assembly session in September and to deliver a speech before the assembly on the Palestine question.

Egyptian Daily on 'Israeli Message' to 'Arafat

JN3007173789 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM has learned that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has received an Israeli message through a third party. The message explains the phases of the proposed settlement, which will ultimately lead to ending the military rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip within the framework of the Palestinian proposals on the settlement agenda of the international peace conference. This conference will discuss the fate of relations between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

Commentary Assesses Shamir's Election Position

LD0208092789 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Brothers, at a time when a number of countries have launched appeals to the leaders of the Zionist entity for the need to respond to the international will that calls for establishing peace in the region on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and at a time when U.S. President George Bush has personally requested from the terrorist Shamir to halt the settlement operations inside the occupied land because of the obstacles brought about by these operations with regard to the peace efforts in the region, we are faced with the statements of the terrorist Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he reiterated his usual no's regarding the impossibility of retreating one single inch from what he described as Israel's territory and his absolute consent to the settlers to build settlements in the occupied land. We say that these statements have added a new obstacle to the peace process in the region.

Therefore, Shamir's declaration clearly reveals the goals that he is trying to obtain by presenting the elections plan. These goals are seen in the emergence of a new alternative leadership that would vote for Shamir's legitimacy to occupy the land from which he refuses to budge one single inch. This totally extremist Shamirian attitude raises questions on the significance of the elections that Shamir wants, because these elections would be meaningless if they do not lead to Israel's relinquishing the

land and an establishment of peace and also if they do not lead to enabling the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination in its land.

In light of this conclusion regarding the Israeli position vis-a-vis the peace process, there is the extreme necessity for the Arabs and all peace-loving forces of this world to exercise an action suitable to the seriousness of this Israeli policy to prevent this policy from being implemented, in that it does not serve the sincere efforts aimed at establishing peace in the region.

The peace, as proposed by Shamir and which is based on the philosophy of taking everything and giving nothing, can be believed only by somebody who fantasizes and who is incapable of reading history. Peace, based on a comprehensive operation, leads finally to enabling the Palestinian people to self-determination in its land. Any talk about peace that goes beyond this framework is talk that does not benefit people and does not serve peace.

USSR Position Considered

PM0208142889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Moscow Adheres to Reservations About Shamir Election Plan"]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo have stated that Israel recently made contacts with the Soviet Union via its ambassador in Washington in a bid to persuade Moscow to support the Israeli plan to hold elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in the hope that Moscow will work to persuade the PLO to accept it.

The sources said that the Soviet Union rejected the Israeli request, adhered to its reservations about the Israeli election plan, and renewed its proposal concerning the need to conduct unofficial discussions on the election idea within the Security Council in order to secure international support for it and also to provide the international guarantees demanded by the Palestinians and the Arab parties concerned with the Middle East conflict.

Furthermore, the Soviet Union recently informed certain Arab states of its position on the Israeli election plan and the new additional conditions set by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, affirming its support for the Arab and Palestinian positions and expressing its willingness to send a Soviet envoy to the Middle East region to confront any U.S. move designed to impose the Israeli plan.

The sources pointed out that Israel rejected the Soviet Union's participation in providing any guarantees regarding the election plan or dispatching Soviet and U.S. observers to supervise the elections before the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two states.

Meanwhile, the PLO has once again rejected a U.S. proposal regarding the selection of a Palestinian delegation from Palestinian figures of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to perform the task of conducting contacts with officials in the Israeli Government and discussing the election plan, especially as the PLO is the only body responsible for discussing and commenting on that plan.

The Israeli Government provided the U.S. Administration with a list of Palestinian figures from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who must be included in the proposed Palestinian delegation, which is what prompted the PLO to reject the proposal.

Arabs Warned About Selling Property to Settlers

JN0208124289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Brother strugglers. We have received information indicating that some people, who sold themselves to the devil, have sold their houses and real estate, which were inherited from their forefathers, in the old city of Jerusalem, the holiest of holies, the flower of cities, and the bride of our Arabism, to the Zionist settlers. We also received information that negotiations are currently under way to sell more houses. Yes, we have received news of blank checks paid by the extremist settlers with the aim of Judaizing our city Jerusalem, the capital of our state. Moreover, we have obtained the names of those who, the day before yesterday, sold their real estate, together with the sums of money they received in return for selling the homeland, honor, and conscience at a time when the tumultuous popular intifadah [uprising] and the gigantic Palestinian sacrifices are at their climax.

Al-Quds radio reminds them of the fate of 'Awwad Abu-Sunaynah, who sold his real estate so that terrorist Minister Sharon could live in it in Hayy-al-Wad in the old city. We remind them that the people's arm is long. It managed to reach and kill Abu-Sunaynah and prevent his burial in the graveyards of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque after our people had refused to say prayers over his body in al-Aqsa Mosque. We remind them that our people's arm is long enough to reach all those who sell the homeland.

PLO Stops Funding Territories Via Jordan Banks

JN0108210889 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 31 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM—Banking sources in Amman told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that the PLO has stopped bringing money into the occupied territories via Jordan. They said that for about a month, the PLO has been sending hundreds of thousands of dollars to the occupied territories through the branches of the Arab Bank in Europe and other foreign banks.

The sources said that since the start of the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories and until mid-July, the PLO has managed to bring in 6 million dinars and

$89 million into the occupied territories, in addition to millions of dollars which were brought in and distributed in the 1948 occupied Palestine.

Pro-Jordan Palestinians Form Political Party

JN3007095089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Jul 89 p 17

[Text] Washington—The establishment of a new party believed to be pro-Jordan was announced in the occupied territory. The party calls for the need to restore administrative and legal ties between the West Bank and Jordan "under new civilized and democratic confederal formulas."

A statement issued by the Central Committee of the Palestine National Union Party [Hizb al-Ittihad al-Watani al-Filastini] dated the middle of the current month of July says the party which "sprang from the womb of the wounded homeland and whose birth was accelerated by our heroic people's long night of suffering" affirms without restraint or fear a completely rational document based on the following concepts:

1. Adherence to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for negotiations.
2. There is no alternative to the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.
3. The right to repatriation and self-determination.
4. The right of all peoples in the region, including the Palestinian state and the State of Israel, to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.
5. The restoration of unity between the one noble people on both banks of the Jordan River as a historic necessity determined by the inevitable Arab-Israeli political struggle and the need to respond to the desire of the one Arab people to achieve the greater unity of the entire Arab homeland. Jordan's role in the political process under the current international equation makes it essential to restore administrative and legal ties under new democratic and civilized confederal formulas.

Although the founders of the party are not known, informed Palestinian sources told AL-WATAN that they believe the founders include: 'Uthman al-Hallaq, proprietor of the East Jerusalem paper AL-NAHAR; and 'Isam al-'Anani, the chief editor of the paper who is also a lawyer employed with the Religious Endowments Department in occupied Jerusalem.

Although the party's statement praises the PLO's policy describing it as "realistic and rational," it also says this policy is distinctly propagandist. The statement describes the PLO leadership's strategic diplomatic moves ending with the cancellation of the Palestinian National Charter as free Palestinian concessions.

Some sources told AL-WATAN that they do not rule out the possibility that the Israeli occupation authorities themselves are behind this statement through certain agents.

Fatah Congress To Begin in Tunis 3 Aug

JN0208180689 Baghdad INA in English 1642 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Aug. 2, INA—The Palestinian Fatah Movement starts its 5th general congress tomorrow to discuss political and organizational strategies in the light of political developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international arena.

INA correspondent reported that stringent security measures were taken by Tunisian security forces and the Tunisian air and naval forces were assigned with guarding Tunisian coasts.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will attend the opening session of the congress at the invitation of Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives Phone Call From Bush

LD0208222189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, received a telephone call from President George Bush this evening.

Prime Minister Forms Administrative Reform Body

LD0108073789 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. The prime minister has set up a national commission for the reform of administration. It is chaired by (Al-Ilmiyah), and consists of over 30 members, including two national press journalists. The commission is charged with examining forms of administrative organization and intervention in public bodies generally. Its purpose is to seek ways and means to ensure the constant improvement of relations between the administration and citizens. For instance, it should examine the organization of cadres, encouraging contacts, openness, participation, as well as the establishment of state morality based on a system of inalienable values. Kasdi Merbah, in setting up this national commission for the reform of administration, noted that the reforms brought about by constitutional measures inevitably imply a reform of public administration and a profound restructuring of relations between the administration and citizens. Recalling the action taken so far, the head of government pointed out they have been pursued and analyzed thoroughly, while taking into consideration new ambitions and needs expressed by the people.

Ain Benian Detainees Release Noted 31 Jul

LD3107172289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] In the wake of the incidents at Ain Benian [20 miles outside of Algiers] on 26 July, the Algerian League of Human Rights has issued a communique indicating that it has contacted the governor of the Wilaya of Tipaza. The latter expressed his readiness to examine all the solutions on the basis of dialogue and consultations with the residents. The governor of the Wilaya of Tipaza has, therefore, pledged to look into the list of those who benefited illegally from public housing. The League has also asked that measures be taken [by the local authorities], including the release of those who were detained, with a view to restoring dialogue and establishing a positive and constructive social climate.

We have just learned from our correspondent Ahmed Belaidi that some of those detained during the incidents at Ain Benian have been released.

Egypt

Commentary Blames Israel for Higgins Killing

NC0208143889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "The War of Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Lebanon"]

[Text] Lebanon has become the focus of attention for the entire world as the battle of the hostages re-emerged with all its ferocity, and kidnapping, murder, and terrorism cropped up. This was to be expected because in such cases every action has a counter-action. When the Israeli forces entered Lebanon using sophisticated weapons and military force to kidnap a senior religious leader such as Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Israel must have anticipated that the extremists on the other side would not accept this in silence, and that a countermeasure might be taken. They have the foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Indeed, it was announced that a radical group responded to Israel's abduction of the religious leader by killing U.S. hostage Colonel William Higgins. Despite the cruelty of this revenge, Israel's public and defiant state terrorism in view of entire world, Ari'el Sharon's previous statement professing his desire to liquidate PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and Israel's permission to the settlers to form military militia and armed mafia to kill Palestinian civilians—in sum, the emergence of this official Israeli terrorism—must inevitably have dangerous consequences that may turn the entire area into bloody military chaos and anarchy. This Israeli terrorism comes at a time when Israel rejects negotiations with the PLO or its representatives on the pretext that it is a terrorist organiztion.

The Israelis, who gave the green light for the kidnapping and for declaring a desire to liquidate the PLO leader, and also for unleashing the mafia of the Israeli settlers, maintain that they refuse to shake hands with terrorists. When Israel planned to kidnap the religious Shiite leader from Lebanon, it was aware that it was endangering the lives of 17 hostages. Israel seems to have planned to create a division between the Arabs and the Americans after the United States refused to sever the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue at Israel's request and after the United States officially criticized Israeli intransigence and advised Israel to give up the dream of expansion and Greater Israel and to declare its acceptance of the principle of land for peace. After all of this, Israel had to plan in the same way as the Lavon scandal to foment division between the Palestinians and the Americans.

We reject all forms of terrorism, whether state or individual terrorism. However, we warn Israel that such plans may destroy stability and calm and drive the region into a state of chaos to which only God knows its end. Israel would be the first to suffer from such a state of affairs.

Paper Says Abduction 'International Piracy'
JN0208190489 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A New Chapter in the Series of International Piracy"]

[Text] Israel insists on reminding the world every now and then that despite the sign that carries the name of a state in Tel Aviv, it also insists on resorting to the methods that are used by the gangs of organized crime to achieve their purposes. This is in addition to the fact that the leaders of that state led terrorist gangs that have a long history of killing women and children and of establishing its state on mountains of skulls and bones.

The crime of kidnapping the Shiite Lebanese leader 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is a chapter in the series of acts of international piracy which the leaders of Israel are still practicing every now and then, not as their favorite hobby, but as a career in which they have become professionals and which they practice on the land of any state that is a member of the United Nations. And although kidnapping is considered a great crime subject to severe punishment in most countries, Israel commits these crimes openly, violating international law with a feeling of impunity from international punishment or condemnation.

The record of the crimes of abduction and assassination perpetrated by the Israeli Mosad is full of acts which any civilized country refuses to commit—at least openly, as the Tel Aviv government does—out of fear for their reputation in the international community and, in fact, among their own citizens. However, the Israeli leaders believe that they can commit all crimes banned by all international laws without any punishment or blame from the international bodies that defend human rights.

But, Israel always forgets that there is a reaction to every action. Through its hideous acts, Israel provokes others to revenge, threatening the lives of its innocent citizens. Then, it shamelessly raises false cries accusing its opponents of terrorism—that is, if it is not shameless to do whatever you like.

Kidnapping Said To Cover Up Israeli Operation
NC0308092289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM emphasizes that when Israel kidnapped Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, it was fully aware that such an incident could provoke retaliatory operations. After all, the kidnapping operation was approved by the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the Cabinet.

In a commentary to be published in its Thursday edition, the paper says that Israel carried out the kidnapping because retaliatory operations such as the execution of U.S. Colonel William Higgins, who had been held hostage in Lebanon since 1988, will plunge Lebanon and the entire region into a new wave of anarchic actions. These actions will be reminiscent of the "concept" of terrorism and its domination of the course of events, at a time when it had receded and was about to disappear.

The paper affirms that there is reason for suspicion that behind this Israeli action lies a deliberate plan to plunge the region into a new wave of violence. This would obliterate the landmarks on the road to peace and stability which have recently become clear and have obtained international enthusiasm and support.

AL-AHRAM declares that there are indications that Israel resorted to the operation involving Shaykh 'Ubayd in order to cover up measures under preparation for an Israeli penetration of south Lebanon. The purpose of such a penetration would be to achieve further expansion and to neutralize and annex some strategic positions and roads, under the pretext of security against new retaliatory terrorist attacks.

The paper adds that the Israeli plan could also include the complete abortion of the Arab efforts to create an atmosphere of reconciliation in Lebanon despite the savage exchange of shellfire between the parties to the conflict. The potential success of these efforts in bringing Lebanon to the threshold of stability, despite their initial failure, would focus attention on the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon. The Israeli plan would allow Tel Aviv a measure of justified freedom of action, would provide more opportunities for foreign interference, and would again provoke conflicting positions in a manner that would further exacerbate the conflict, make a solution more remote, increase desperation, and, as Israel imagines, ensure Israel's survival and security.

Workers' Strike at Steel Plant Reported

500 Workers Arrested
NC0208134689 Paris AFP in English 1316 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 2 (AFP)—Egyptian police staged a dawn raid Wednesday on striking metal-workers at al-Tabbin south of here and arrested nearly 500 men.

Between 1,500 and 1,800 workers, out of the several thousand at the factory complex, had gone on strike the day before in a show of solidarity with two colleagues dropped from the Board of Directors by Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab for refusing to agree to cuts in productivity bonuses.

Police said one worker died of a heart attack before the raid was mounted.

MENA on End of Strike

NC0208183489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug—Work during the second shift returned to normal at the iron and steel plant in Hulwan after a few workers incited and instigated other workers to riot. The General Trade Union Board of Directors is scheduled to hold a meeting at 1900 today and is expected to release a statement.

A few elements this morning instigated some workers to stage a strike despite the announcement of new privileges for the company's workers approved by Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab. The minister had issued a leaflet to the workers on 1 August increasing incentives retroactive from last July, offering a meal as of this October, amending fringe benefits, providing medicare, and addressing the problem of workers' transportation. These benefits total well over 13 million pounds.

It has been learned that among the instigators are two members of the Board of Directors who were elected by the workers. They incited riots because they did not take part in resolving these problems and used the pretext that they were fired, although they were not fired but were referred to interrogation because they were members of the Board of Directors and broke the rules regulating the work.

Union Issues Statement

NC0208195089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug, (MENA)—In a statement issued today, the Egyptian Workers Union emphasized that the labor union movement and its leadership have been and will remain at the level of responsibility through their constant eagerness to promote and support the public sector as a basic pillar of the national economy and as a vital utility to which the interests of the workers and the masses have been linked.

The statement said that the Egyptian Workers Union affirms the importance of increasing and consolidating cooperation between the labor union organizations and the administration at all levels in the production units.

The statement also emphasized that the labor movement has absolute confidence in the Egyptian judiciary and that the conclusion the judiciary reaches will determine who is responsible for what happened at the Egyptian Iron and Steel Company factory in Hulwan.

The statement said that it is clear that a few elements outside the labor union organization wanted to outbid the organization because they found the workers' attainment of their demands through the labor union organization without these elements' participation hard to swallow. Therefore, they fomented chaos among some of the workers. This resulted in the regrettable incidents that took place.

The statement then referred to the workers' demands that have been realized: incentive pay and a snack.

The following is the text of the Egyptian Workers Union's statement that was issued after a meeting of the union's Board of Directors and the chairmen of the general labor unions this evening:

The Board of Directors of the General Federation of the Egyptian Labor Unions and the chairmen of the General Labor Unions held an emergency meeting at the federation's headquarters on the morning of 2 August 1989 to discuss the incidents that took place at the Iron and Steel Company on Hulwan in the afternoon of 1 August.

After clarifications were made by the federation chairman and a report presented by the chairman of the General Labor Union of the engineering, metal, and electricity industries on the subject, and on the basis of the discussions in which all those present participated, the labor unions leaders, represented by the members of the federation's Board of Directors and the chairmen of the General Labor Unions, would like to clarify the following:

I. In performing its role of defending the workers' rights, caring for their interests, and securing stability for them so as to encourage them to perform their duty and motivate them to increase production, the committee of the union of the workers in the iron and steel company presented to the company's administration some of workers' demands, supported by a scientific and objective study. A discussion of this study took place in order to realize it.

II. As a result of the contacts and meetings held in this regard, agreement was reached on fulfilling the demands of the labor union committee as follows:

1. [Number as received] amending the system of incentives as follows:

a: The aim of the incentive is to achieve a final production of 800,000 tons a year ready for sale.

b: The starting point of incentives is the same as that of production.

c: An incentive rate of 125 percent will be paid when units fulfill the aims of their incentives. The incentive will continue to be increased at the rate of 1.25 percent for every 1 percent increase in production without any upper limit.

d: The systems of special and individual incentives will continue to operate so that they will increase to 53 percent instead of 42.5 percent when [words indistinct].

e: This system goes into effect as of 1 July 1989.

III. 2. [Number as received] Agreement was reached to provide snacks for all workers according to the system proposed by the labor union committee. This will start on 1 October 1989.

3. To amend the list of fringe benefits and health and social care in accordance with the agreement reached.

IV. It is evident that a few elements outside the labor union organization wanted to outbid the organization because they found that the workers' attainment of their demands through the labor union organization without these elements' participation hard to follow. Therefore, they fomented chaos among some of the workers. This resulted in the regrettable incidents that took place.

V. The labor union movement has full confidence in Egyptian justice and the decision it will reach will identify those responsible for the incidents.

We stress here that the labor union movement and its leadership has been and will continue to be at the level of responsibility through their constant and continuing desire to develop the public sector and support it as the principal prop of the national economy and as a vital utility to whom the interests of the workers and the masses of the people are linked. This has always been the conduct throughout the labor action march, even in the most difficult circumstances.

The Egyptian Labor Union Federation also stresses the importance of cooperation and of bolstering it at all levels of the labor union organizations as a legitimate channel that expresses the demands and hopes of all workers and also at all levels of the administrative departments in order to achieve the desired stability.

Libya

Reportage on Visit of Sudanese Leader Al-Bashir

Arrives 2 Aug

LD0208152289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Al-Bayda', 2 Aug 1989, JANA—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in fraternal Sudan and the delegation accompanying him arrived in al-Abraq airport this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in fraternal Sudan, is accompanied by Brigadier General Tijani Adam, member of the Revolution Command Council, brother 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, the foreign minister; Eng 'Abd al-Mun'im Khujali, minister of energy and mining; and Major General Hasan Muhammad Hasan 'Allam, chief of staff of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0208192489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Bayda', 2 Aug (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution this afternoon received Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, the brother secretary of the General People's Congress, and the secretary of the General People's Committee.

After his meeting with the brother leader of the revolution, Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir made a statement to JANA, saying: I am very pleased to achieve my nationalist wish to visit the Great Jamahiriyah and to meet with the leader, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah is the land of all Arabs, and that the Arab people in Sudan do not feel like strangers in Libya; the Sudanese feel as if they are in their own country.

Lt Gen al-Bashir also expressed his appreciation and pride concerning the firm principled positions of the September Revolution and its leader, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, toward the Arab people in Sudan. These courageous positions, he said, truly express the principles of the September Revolution and its faith in the unity of objective and fate.

Concluding his statement, the chairman of the RCC of Sudan said: During this visit we want to explain the developments in Sudan, even though the brothers in Libya were following them minute by minute. He also voiced the readiness of his country to promote relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

We in the RCC, he said, believe in Arab unity, and we have come to learn lessons from the brother leader of the revolution because he has much experience. We need this experience in order to benefit from it because we are facing great challenges, and we will need learning and guidance.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Negotiations, Juba Situation

EA0208153589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council, has stressed the government's

determination to end the southern problem and solve it radically. In an interview with his excellency on Juba Radio, he pointed out that the revolution had made positive strides in this direction, as shown by the extension of the cease-fire for another month. He expressed his hope that a positive reply would be forthcoming from Garang's movement over the next two days. He said he expected negotiations between the government and the movement's leaders to begin in the next few days.

On the reasons for the postponement of the appointment of the governors of the southern region, his excellency said the Revolutionary Command Council was currently gathering the opinions of southern leaders inside and outside Sudan so that the selection process will be ideal, and so that the revolution will not be accused of making the decision alone. His excellency explained that the appointment of governors for the south would be carried out over the next few days.

Lt Gen 'Umar denied that the reason for the suspension of studies at Juba University was the instability of security conditions. He said the security situation in Juba town was stable. He explained that the reason for the suspension of studies at Juba University was the problem of transporting students and professors and their supplies to Juba. His excellency pointed out that there was a tendency to keep final year students at Juba University (?in) Khartoum and Jazirah Universities because of their facilities and laboratories. He added that studies at Juba University would begin soon.

Decree Confiscates Dissolved Parties' Property

EA0208214389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The administrative and legal affairs committee of the National Revolutionary Control Committee has issued the following proclamation:

All organizations, institutions, and individuals in possession of vehicles, [word indistinct] or property belonging to the dissolved parties are to hand over or report the same within 7 days of the date of this decree. [passage omitted]

Anyone who delays handing over such property or who continues to use the same without permission from the relevant authority exposes himself to legal proceedings.

[Signed] Major Ibrahim Shama al-Din, Chairman of the Administrative and Legal Affairs Committee

Command Council Establishes Prices Courts

EA2207211289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of the people and the Armed Forces, the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council [NSRCC] law of courts formation of 1989: Amendment No 3 of 1989:

1) The nomenclature and date of effectiveness of the law. This law shall be termed as the law setting up special courts of 1989 Amendment No 3 of 1989 and shall be effective from the date of its signature.

2) Amendment: A new paragraph shall be appended to Article 2 of the law forming the special courts and that shall be Paragraph C, which reads as follows: The commissioner of the national capital and the regional governors are competent to form special prices courts comprised of an appointed officer or individual to try issues related to prices and public order. Appeals against the decisions of the special price courts can be made to the Special Appeals Court in the national capital or the Court of Appeals in the respective region if the penalty exceeds 6 months in prison or a fine exceeding 1,500 Sudanese pounds.

At the order of the NSRCC, signed by me 22 July 1989.

[Signed] Lieutenant 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Chairman of the NSRCC

Al-Bashir Receives Ethiopian, Other Envoys 22 Jul

EA2307160689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council [NSRCC], this morning at the General Command, received Mr Feleke Tabor, the Ethiopian ambassador in Khartoum. The ambassador explained after the meeting that he had delivered a verbal message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam concerning relations between the two countries. He said that during the meeting the NSRCC chairman's visit to Addis Ababa to attend the OAU summit meetings had been discussed. The ambassador added that he discussed with Lt Gen 'Umar the peace issue and efforts to promote the peace process in the Sudan.

Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir also met in his office at the General Command at noon today the Spanish ambassador to Khartoum. The ambassador said bilateral relations and ways of promoting and developing them in all fields were discussed.

In another development, the chairman of the NSRCC and prime minister today received a letter from the PRC prime minister, congratulating him on assuming the post of prime minister. The letter was delivered by the the Chinese charge d'affaires in Khartoum.

Bahrain

Minister Conveys Amir's Message to President Bush

JN0208202689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Washington, 2 Aug (WAKH)—U.S. President George Bush has received a message from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, on bilateral relations. The message was conveyed by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah during a reception accorded to him by President Bush in Washington this evening. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Editorial Implicates U.S. in 'Ubayd Abduction

JN0308095889 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 1 Aug 89 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Israel Is Igniting Fires"]

[Text] When Israel abducted Shaykh 'Ubayd, the Lebanese religious man, we were certain that some foreign forces were planning a new round of violence in southern Lebanon. The sensitivity of such issues will open the gates of hell for those who chose to deal and trade with them. These issues are usually characterized by an amazingly high flammability and fast dissemination.

To start with, Israel's kidnapping of the Lebanese religious man means that it is planning a large-scale act of aggression against Lebanon through its southern gate. Israel and the United States know only too well that the supporters of the kidnapped man will not remain silent and will proceed with their threat to kill their hostages, including the American.

It was obvious that Israel knows the results of its mad adventure, especially since the Lebanese organization to which Shaykh 'Ubayd is affiliated is not governed by international laws or norms; it is an integral part of the military and political structure produced by the Lebanese war.

Undoubtedly, the successive developments, which began with the execution yesterday of the U.S. Colonel Higgins, followed by reports on massing Israeli military forces in southern Lebanon and President Bush's summoning the National Security Council into meeting, all prove that Israel intended to ignite the spark of a new war in the region, with southern Lebanon as the starting point.

It is not possible to think that the United States is removed from the Israeli atmosphere. It is very close to the act of abduction, although it pretends to be in the dark. While appearing neutral, it ignored the abduction and refrained from condemning it. It has become clear that the sucessors of Sharon—who led the invasion of Lebanon in 1982 under the pretext of undermining the PLO—in the Zionist war establishment are trying to repeat the experiment and launch a new invasion of all Lebanese and Palestinian positions in the region, irrespective of their positions and identity.

We have always said that the spark of the intifadah [uprising] and its burns in Israel's body will continue to be one of the Zionist entity's obsessions. It was therefore natural for Shamir to look for all possible alternatives to ease the pressure on Israel by transferring the confrontation to outside the border and setting the scene for the explosion. The abduction of the Lebanese religious man and the execution of the American colonel were the fuse igniting the alleged military solution to an impossible crisis that might drag all parties to a deadly fighting with Israel's arms and bloody, brutal tools.

Saudi Arabia

Bush Telephones King Fahd, Discusses Lebanon

LD0208204589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2011 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 2 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud received a telephone call today, Wednesday, from His Excellency U.S. President George Bush, during which views were exchanged on issues concerning the Arab region and the latest developments in Lebanon, especially the indiscriminate shelling between the two parts of the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

Conversation Linked to Hostages

LD0308124489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] U.S. President George Bush last night talked over the telephone with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. AFP, quoting the Saudi news agency states: In this telephone contact, King Fahd discussed with Bush the latest developments in the situation in Lebanon, including the intensification of the shelling of Beirut. The Saudi news agency did not specify whether the question of the hostages in Lebanon had been discussed or not. Yesterday George Bush said that the following the execution of Colonel Higgins he would be making use of all possible diplomatic means in order to find a solution to the problem of the hostages.

Commentary Views 'Failure' of Lebanon Mediation

LD0208224989 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] The tripartite Arab committee entrusted with finding a solution to the Lebanese tragedy has announced that its efforts have reached a dead end. The tripartite committee continued over 66 days to exert the

utmost and most sincere efforts in order to find a solution to the Lebanese tragedy. As is known, the committee is a subcommittee of the higher committee formed by the Arab summit conference which was held lately in Morocco, comprising King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, the Moroccan king, and the Algerian president, to find a formula which would lead to solving the Lebanese problem through convergence of views of the belligerents, bringing them to agreement.

Regrettably and painfully, there have been factors controlling the parties to the conflict and governing their orientations in such a way that it has become difficult for them to be freed from those factors, perhaps as a result of the harshness of the confrontation and the consequent deepening desire for revenge on the two sides, before they can all respond to the call of reason. Hence, it was difficult for the tripartite Arab committee to achieve agreement among all the parties to the conflict. Each believes that it alone is right and the others wrong. Thus, the committee had to square the possible with the impossible; but regrettably, the impossible was the stronger factor in a complicated equation. In the light of this reality, there was no other way than the defeat of reason and the triumph of the cannon, and the Lebanese tragedy enters a new stage of destruction.

This made the Lebanese despair and fear the future upon hearing that the efforts of the Arab committee have reached a dead end, as those efforts represented the hopes of the Lebanese after the long march of destruction and devastation. From this grim outlook and the speed of despair the parties to the conflict should reconsider their intransigence, which no longer has any justification. The intransigents who reject the formula for a solution want to achieve personal victory, even at the cost of the defeat of Lebanon. Yet, despite the despair, hope remains that the call of reason and conscience will prevail among all the parties, especially those who think that they alone are right and the others are wrong.

Yemen Arab Republic

Airline Official Cited on Istanbul Incident

PM0208110689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jul 89 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Al-Iryani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Are Following Developments Related to Mosad Assault on Yemeni Airlines"]

[Excerpt] London—YAR Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone from Sanaa, said that the YAR [Yemen Arab Republic] Foreign Ministry's consular section is following developments related to the Israeli aggression against the Yemeni Airlines offices in Istanbul, Turkey, and that details of the aggression were submitted to the cabinet at its meeting yesterday.

'Abdallah Mubariz, director of the Yemeni Airlines in Turkey, has given AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT details of the aggression committed against the company's offices at Istanbul airport by Mosad elements responsible for guarding the Israeli El Al flight before takeoff last Saturday.

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Mubariz said: At 2230 hours last Saturday, as five Yemeni Airlines employees were discharging their duties and making preparations for Yemeni Airlines Flight 645 from Istanbul to Sanaa, the airlines office director was surprised to see an Israeli Mosad group start searching the airline's desks and its contents.

He added that the Mosad men tried to attack him and that an argument ensued after he insisted on preventing them from continuing their search. He added that the El Al offices at the airport are close to the Yemeni Airlines offices.

He said that he has submitted a complaint to the Turkish authorities at the airport and another to Istanbul's governor, maintaining that the incident constituted a violation of Turkey's sovereignty and that neither the Mosad nor any other body has any right to act so disgracefully. [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Message From Turkish President

JN0208125989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The Brother Leader Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received a message from Turkish President Kenan Evren dealing with economic and trade cooperation between Islamic countries.

President Salih Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani

JN0208071089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has sent a cable of congratulations to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

PDRY Education Minister Arrives With Message

JN0208162089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, minister of culture and information and member of the Central Committee in the southern part of our homeland [Peo

ple's Democratic Repulic of Yemen], arrived in Sanaa this afternoon. In a statement to the news agency SABA', Dr Jarhum expressed his joy over visiting the historical capital of united Yemen. He said he is carrying a message to Brother Leader Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, dealing with joint unity affairs and the new developments in the Arab region. He was received by Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of culture and information and member of the Standing Committee; Brother Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the Unity Affairs Office; and a number of officials in the Ministry of Information and the Unity Affairs Office.

Received by President

JN0308072389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Brother leader President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received a message from his brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee in the southern part of our homeland [People's Democratic Republic of Yemen]. The message deals with the unity action between the two parts and the latest developments on the regional and international scenes. The message was delivered by brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, minister of culture and information and member of the Central Committee in the southern part of our homeland, when the president received him last night.

'Aziz Urges Arab Summit After Committee's Failure
JN0208120489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Iraq has called for holding an urgent and emergency Arab summit meeting to assume its historic responsibilities toward tackling the Lebanese situation.

Commenting on the tripartite committee's communique, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told INA that Iraq strongly emphasizes that even after the committee has reached a dead end, tackling the situation must be a collective Arab responsibility.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the emergency Arab summit must be responsible for tackling the Lebanese situation to save it from occupation, terrorism, and blackmail, to achieve peace and security in Lebanon, and to restore accord among its sons and its position as a free and independent Arab country. He warned that if the Arab nation does not lead an initiative to quickly tackle the Lebanese situation in a frank, responsible, and daring manner, the situation in Lebanon will further deteriorate to a point where it will threaten the entire pan-Arab security. He stressed that following the failure of the tripartite committee, the Lebanese situation should be tackled on a new level that basically means dotting the i's without flattery.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the new level of tackling the situation must be based on collective Arab confrontation of the Syrian regime, which has deliberately insisted on obstructing the Arab solution and on continuing acts of sabotage, destruction, and partition in Lebanon. He added that the Arabs must reach a fixed plan in this regard to give predominence to the historic pan-Arab responsibility toward Lebanon and the related threats to the pan-Arab security over any other considerations. He said that the Arab states should be responsible for this plan.

He stressed that the conclusions reached by the tripartite committee shed light on what Iraq has always known and which it reiterated at the Casablanca summit regarding the major complex in the Lebanese crisis. The committee clearly pointed out that it does not agree with the Syrian regime's interpretation of its relations with Lebanon and its presence there.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that at the top of the issues that should receive frank and radical treatment is the abnormal Syrian role in Lebanon, which, in the course of time, has become an occupation that threatens Lebanon's sovereignty and prevents free meetings among its sons to allow them to achieve national accord. This is in addition to the killing, plundering, terrorism, and destruction that are being carried out by the Syrian regime's occupation forces in Lebanon.

He stressed that the other problems in Lebanon, particularly the domestic problems can be solved if the Lebanese are given security and freedom. He stressed that the confrontation of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is an Arab and Lebanese issue, and that this occupation derives justification from the Syrian occupation to a point where the presence of both sides constitutes collusion between them.

Tariq 'Aziz added that the Syrian regime's actions in Lebanon represent the other face of its conspiratorial role against the Arab nation, which was embodied by its alliance with Iran against Arab Iraq with the aim of achieving Iran's suspect objectives of occupying Iraq and imposing the Persian hegemony over it.

He stressed that despite its strong belief in facts deduced from long experience throughout the years of the Lebanese crisis, Iraq responded to the desire of several Arab leaders by providing the opportunity to tackle the Syrian presence in Lebanon through dialogue, persuasion, and search for a face-saving device for the Syrian regime. He added that Iraq's response was based on its concern about the unity of the Arab position and on its firm belief in the Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The foreign minister said that Iraq has supported the tripartite committee, wished it success in its task, and responded sincerely to its proposals out of its concern for the success of the Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis. He added that careful scrutiny of the situation has undoubtedly revealed that from the very beginning, the Syrian regime was playing a dual game. It was explicitly supporting the committee, and implicitly seeking to foil the committee's task by all practical means. Facts have eventually become clear and the Syrian regime is no longer capable of covering its true stand on reinforcing its presence in Lebanon and maintaining the tragic situation. Moreover, the Syrian regime has encouraged the Iranian regime to further interfere in Lebanon's domestic affairs, and placed more obstacles in the face of the Arab solution.

He stressed that the Syrian regime has escalated massive shelling and destruction to silence the nationalist voices calling for the termination of the Syrian occupation, and to place the Lebanese people under the hammer of despair and humiliation.

Ramadan Returns From Jordan Trip, Makes Statement
JN0208145089 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 2, INA—Personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn to King Husayn of Jordan, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier returned to Baghdad this afternoon.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Ramadan said he had discussed with King Husayn current conditions in the Arab region including Iranian rulers deviative behaviours in obstructing progress of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations to impede realizing lasting and comprehensive peace in accordance with Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Mr. Ramadan said that viewpoints between Iraq and Jordan were identical on the necessity that Arab leaders continue their efforts to save Lebanon from its plight and seriously and effectively helping it for realizing peace and security and national sovereignty and ensuring departure of all external parties from Lebanon in implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions.

He added that he had discussed with King Husayn steps for preparing agenda of the ministerial body of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] due to meet in Baghdad before submitting it to the ACC leaders during their forthcoming summit in Sanaa.

Minister Comments on Multiparty System, U.S. Ties
JN0108210089 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Jul 89 p 2

[By Hamdi Handal in Baghdad]

[Text] Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has announced that three committees have been formed to move Iraq toward a multiparty system by adding new parties to enrich Iraq's political life. These committees, he said, are studying the most appropriate ways to apply "the freedom of press" and the constitutional amendments this would require. President Saddam Husayn is giving extreme importance to this subject, he added.

Jasim stressed that Iraq is moving toward " a new structure for the Iraqi economy" that gives more freedom to the movement of private capital. The state has given the private sector much room in the field of fodder, chicken, foodstuffs production, and cow fattening, he said. This is in line with the development experienced by the Iraqi citizens 21 years after the revolution, he said, adding that the state is currently concentrating on strategic industries, such as iron, steel, weapons, dams, and reservoirs.

He said the decisions banning Iraqis from leaving the country for tourism were made in response to the post-war circumstances and the dearth of hard currency, which was being used to purchase arms, medicines, and essential foodstuffs for the public. When we overcome the difficulties concerning hard currency, we will allow Iraqis to leave for tourism, he said.

The Iraqi minister disclosed a plan to deepen the democratic participation of Kurds in the Iraqi political life. He said that approval for publishing two Kurdish-language newspapers was given, in addition to two executive and legislative Kurdish councils and the appointment of a Kurd as a deputy president.

He stressed that no single Kurd was moved from northern to southern Iraq. He explained that residents of villages within the security-seclusion areas were moved to new towns provided with all means of dignified life—schools, electricity, pure water, and lands fit for farming. This, he said, was not displacement of Kurds, but upgrading of the inhabitant's civilization. Immense efforts are being exerted to develop the northern region, he said.

He said that the elections for the Kurdish legislative council will be held at the scheduled time—1 September.

Jasim said Iraq is using all its capabilities to reconstruct the city of al-Faw after Basra was reconstructed in 4 months. This indicates that Iraq has passed the state of war and is deeply inclined toward peace, he said. Dissolving the special military corps and demobilizing a large number of Army officers, he added, also underline Iraq's desire for peace.

He said as far as Iraq is concerned, the war practically ended on 8 August 1988. We believe the climate is now appropriate for concluding a peace agreement between Iraq and Iran, respecting the sovereignty of each country, and refraining from interference in the internal affairs, he said.

The Iraqi information minister said Iraq is awaiting the results of the Iranian elections to know the real intentions of the new Iranian rulers and the extent of their inclination toward peace.

He disclosed that Iran has rejected initiatives on POW's presented by President Saddam Husayn. It rejected the exchange of sick POW's and the exchange of POW's on the condition that they do not join in the war again, he explained, saying that only the Iranian side is responsible for the suffering of the POW's.

He said that Iraq considers arming Iran by any party as an act that does not help peace, and this explains Iraq's criticism of the announced Soviet provision of Iran with some types of weapons.

On Iraq's position toward the United States, the Iraqi information minister said this differs according to the various issues. But Iraq considers the United States as partner to Israel in all that concerns the Palestinian question.

He said Iraq does not fear Israel's threats, stressing that the Iraq of 1989 is different than the Iraq of 1981. He warned Israel against commiting any foolish act against Iraq.

Jasim said Iraq rejects Shamir plan as a maneuver aimed at throwing the ball into the court of the Palestinian resistance.

He stressed that Iraq supports the efforts of the tripartite committee on Lebanon. Iraq responded to the committee's call and stopped arms shipments to 'Awn's government in Lebanon, he said. He added that Iraq asks for the termination of the Syrian occupation of Lebanon because the initiation of the Syrian withdrawal will put

international pressure on Israel and Iran to withdraw their forces from Lebanon so that this country can hold its elections and elect its legitimate representatives.

AL-THAWRAH: Iran Obstructing Peace March

JN0208123489 Baghdad INA in English 1105 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 2, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad held the Iranian regime responsible for the failure and obstruction of the peace march and not achieving tangible progress in implementing Security Council Resolution No. 598.

A daily commentary here today said that Iran should depart from the course of intended mixing between articles of Resolution 598 and the proposals tabled by the UN secretary general and should also avoid the selective method of what could realise its interests and attempt to get illegal gains and exploit the state of no war and no peace to threat security and stability in the region.

The daily said that a new agreement should be concluded between Iraq and Iran taking into consideration new developments for the sake of making a solid base for a lasting and comprehensive peace.

The daily criticised Iran repeated call for agreement 1975 which it had abrogated and also to stop presenting false statement as concern the prisoners of war.

The daily added that Iran should confirm its desire in peace and discard the selective and deviative behaviour.

Peres Denies Talks With Lebanese Organizations

TA0208164989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Report by 'Itay Engel]

[Text] I believe Israel is a country which cares for its POW's, for its citizens taken hostage. For me the current state of affairs is the ultimate test. Of course, if we do not exert ourselves, nothing will happen. These remarks were made by Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, who added: I do not know of any negotiations we are supposedly conducting with Lebanese terrorist organizations for the release of Israeli hostages, nor do I know whether the Americans are conducting such negotiations.

A short while ago, Minister Peres concluded a meeting with John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary for the Middle East. The two hardly touched upon the hostage crisis. Minister Peres explained this by saying that although this is at present the hot topic, it must be set apart from the fundamental issues pertaining to long-range developments and the future of the Middle East.

[In a similar report on the meeting between Peres and Kelly, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 2 August adds: "Peres told his guest: What can be achieved now is the establishment of a Palestinian delegation that would prepare the elections in the territories. If the problem is the demand to involve two or three delegates from outside the territories in the process, we will overcome it." Peres further said that "the Israeli initiative must be made more attractive to the Palestinians. If they wish to consult with elements in the Arab world, we will not tell them with whom they are to consult, nor will we make the beginning of negotiations contingent on an absolute end of violence."]

Shamir 'Confident' of Achieving Prisoner Exchange

TA0208173489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he is confident Israel will achieve its goal of a prisoner exchange with Hizballah. Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who heads the special Foreign Ministry team monitoring the situation, says Israel is sticking to its guidelines despite the difficult times. The two men spoke following a meeting this afternoon in the Knesset of the Likud caucus. David Ze'ev reports:

In a statement read at the Likud caucus meeting, Prime Minister Shamir said Israel finds itself involved in a battle for its missing soldiers and for those prisoners being held. He said the country remains united behind the Army operation last week and the information campaign in which Jerusalem is explaining the justification for its effort against hostile elements, who, Shamir said, wish to control with their crazed actions and hatred. On his way out of the meeting we asked the prime minister if he remains optimistic over the outcome of the negotiations for the freedom of the Israeli prisoners and Western hostages.

[Begin Shamir recording] Well, you know it is very difficult to be optimistic. I am confident that we will get our goal. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ministry Welcomes Efforts To Free Hostages

TA0308122889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Israel welcomes the diplomatic efforts made by many countries to secure the release of the hostages held in Lebanon. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the Foreign Ministry spokesman, who relayed the statement, added that Israel joins the call issued by the United States, the Soviet Union, and Britain to release the hostages. Israel also welcomes the Soviet TASS agency's statement on the need to release the hostages, and to act with restraint in order to break the vicious cycle of violence.

Rabin Comments on Hostage Exchange, Elections

TA0208200289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1840 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator Yoram Ronen, Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari and Moshe Shlonsky; from the "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Ronen] The abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd and the execution of Colonel Higgins have been the main items on the news this week, not only in Israel but throughout the world. The controversy surrounding the outcome will apparently only be settled when it becomes clear whether the abduction achieved its goal, which is the release of our three POW's held by Hizballah. We are hosting the person responsible for the abduction operation, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Good evening, Mr Defense Minister.

[Rabin] Good evening to you and our listeners at home.

[Ronen] Mr Minister, it seems to me that this evening we are in the midst of a lull in the abduction affair, with Western countries, the United States, and perhaps the USSR active with Iran to prevent further murders by Hizballah. What do we know about that?

[Rabin] I differentiate between what affects Israel, its positions, and its activities, and efforts by others, which I believe at present are primarily aimed at checking the threat to continue killing hostages. I do not believe that at this stage the efforts being conducted, whether by the United States or other countries, are aimed at more than that.

[Ronen] Are we partners in this effort?

[Rabin] Our ability to influence Iran or Syria or Hizballah, as you know, is limited.

[Shlonsky] In the past we at least showed an ability to talk with the Iranians, to pick up the phone and talk with them.

[Rabin] I do not know what you are referring to.

[Shlonsky] Irangate.

[Rabin] If you are referring to the period in which the United States and Israel acted together in what was called Irangate, you are right, but that is something that has passed.

[Shlonsky] In your evaluations before the operation, did you take into account Iran's partial moderation in the past year and in the post-Khomeyni months?

[Rabin] We do not know for sure whether or not Iran has moderated its positions. On the other hand, the main consideration in deciding on the action to bring the shaykh to Israeli territory was the interests of Israel, first and foremost our responsibility for the fate of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] POW's and MIA's. That aim is what led to our action after many years of trying all avenues for a dialogue, including various attempts to achieve contacts with Iran and Hizballah, to receive at least some tangible sign that our soldiers and MIA's are alive. All these efforts failed. That is why the main motive to do what we did was not a belief that we will solve the entire problem with one action, but rather to do something, because our conscience demands that we not stand by doing nothing to bring them home after they were sent on a government mission on government orders.

[Ya'ari] Mr Defense Minister, I am certain that everyone agrees with what you have just said. what is the political assessment of the situation behind all this? we cannot assume that Hizballah will act entirely outside of Iran's influence. Everyone agrees that Iran influences this organization's actions to a great extent. The question then is this: Why do you believe the seizure of Shaykh 'Ubayd will suffice to change the Iranian stance on the issue of hostages and our POW's, if there are no other factors causing Mr Rafsanjani to change that stance?

[Rabin] First of all, our operation was based on Israeli considerations. We asked ourselves what we could do to bring about negotiations for the exchange of our POW's and MIA's for people held by us whom Hizballah deems important.

I would like to remind you that there is a substantive difference between the policy of Israel and that of the United States with regard to hostages and POW's held by terrorist organizations. Israel prefers the military option. In the absence of such an option, however, we have been in the past and we are still ready to enter negotiations to obtain an exchange of POW's for detainees. The United States, as you all know, objects to any such negotiations. We regard these attempts as a supreme moral obligation.

Nevertheless, I would like to add the following: The existence of POW's and hostages, both Israeli and American, constitutes a limitation of our freedom to act against terrorism.

[Shlonsky] In recent years were our actions in al-Biqa', for instance, limited by the existence of U.S. hostages?

[Rabin] I will cite an example. As I have already related, in the years 1985-1986 the organization calling itself the Oppressed on Earth captured eight Beirut Jews, demanding an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Without that, it threatened to kill the Jews. We did not respond, and they were killed. After the car bomb near Fatimah Gate in October 1988, Hizballah announced that if Israel carried out air raids against Hizballah targets an Israeli hostage would be executed. We faced a dilemma, but we decided to attack. No Israeli hostage was executed.

It is a fact that after we carried out the recent operation, a hostage—in this instance, an American—was killed, after which we witnessed an understandable uproar in the United States and numerous expressions of concern. All this means that even when carrying out operations vital to the struggle against terror, we have to consider every possible result. When we take action to secure our own hostages we have the right to make decisions based on our own considerations. When American hostages are at stake, however... [changes thought] The Hizballah did not strike out against the Americans by chance; their aim was to create a rift between the United States and Israel. Therefore, we regard our correct policy of making exchange deals as both morally essential and necessary if we are to maintain a constant, continuous, and efficient war against terrorism, particularly in Lebanon.

[Ya'ari] Mr Defense Minister, who are you addressing? Do you regard Hizballah as an organization capable of making independent decisions on matters such as the exchange of hostages, or is Tehran our true target?

[Rabin] I believe we have to address a mixture of elements: First of all Iran, after that Hizballah, and—let me remind you—also Syria, since all the hostages—the Western and the Israeli—are held in Lebanese territory controlled by the Syrian Army, be it in Beirut or in al-Biqa'. By the way, I am surprised that so many countries have failed to appeal to Syria. All these developments took place in a territory in which Syria maintains large Army forces. In western Beirut, for instance, between 8,000 and 10,000 Syrian soldiers are deployed. According to what Hizballah has said, that is where Colonel Higgins was executed.

[Ronen] Minister, you are saying that under certain conditions we will talk with Hizballah and with terrorist organizations. Will we talk with Hizballah in this

instance as well, after they completely rejected your statement yesterday, calling it ridiculous and absurd, and saying there is nothing to talk about? Shim'on Peres also said today that we will not talk with Hizballah, and that there are other avenues.

[Rabin] We will talk to any element that holds hostages, POW's, and those whom we at present define as MIA's, in order to bring our boys back home. We have no limits when it concerns bringing POW's and soldiers home.

[Ronen] How did you receive Hizballah's announcement yesterday totally rejecting your conditions?

[Rabin] It is a first-stage announcement, and I must weigh what must be done in the future in order to bring our boys back home.

[Ronen] Why was your announcement about our readiness to exchange prisoners in a comprehensive deal made 15 minutes after the passing of the deadline for the ultimatum to execute Colonel Higgins? Was it not too late?

[Rabin] When it concerns our POW's and MIA's we have the right to make our decisions on our own. Since we offered to include other elements, that is other countries' hostages, we had to make sure that there would be no opposition by one of the main elements whose people are being held hostage. That delayed the announcement.

[Ronen] You mean U.S. opposition.

[Rabin] I will not say anything beyond what I have already said.

[Shlonsky] There have been a lot of questions raised in the press in recent days over the considerations preceding the operation. I would like to ask you whether in making the decision the possibility that U.S. hostages would be threatened was taken into account?

[Rabin] We took into account a number of possible actions by Hizballah, including a threat to the hostages in their hands, as well as additional actions.

[Shlonsky] Tomorrow at 6 pm the Hizballah ultimatum on Joseph Cicippio runs out. What will happen if Cicippio is executed, or on the other hand, if nothing happens? What if Hizballah does nothing in the coming days?

[Rabin] I will tell you after 6 pm tomorrow.

[Shlonsky] What about the possibility that nothing happens tomorrow or in the coming days?

[Rabin] I will answer you then even if that happens. I would like to add that I suggest we do not wait with a stop watch in our hands. We are still in the midst of a period in which there is more vagueness than clarity in reactions by Hizballah and other elements. That is why we must be careful in our expressions, we must be alert, and be prepared for various possibilities.

[Shlonsky] At this stage it seems that everything is happening according to a Hizballah timetable. They move from ultimatum to ultimatum, from canceling one ultimatum to the next.

[Rabin] Look, we initiated our action. We are talking about Hizballah reactions to our action. Since they affect not only us, we must also take into account the other elements. That is why it is preferable to wait and see how things develop at this stage, including the diplomatic moves in which we are not involved.

[Ya'ari] You said at the beginning of this interview that we acted in order to rescue our own hostages. The question now is whether you have instructed your people to wait and see what course the U.S. contacts will take, or whether you have instructed your subordinates to try and open their own new channels of communication with both Hizballah and Iran.

[Rabin] We have always been busy opening channels of communication through different venues: Lebanese Shiites, Arabs, you name them. We are continuing and will continue in the future to seek ways to get some sign of life from our hostages, and to attain negotiations for an exchange.

[Ronen] In looking for signs of life, and in the interrogation of Shaykh 'Ubayd which has now continued for several days, have we uncovered any new facts or information about the whereabouts of our soldiers? Are they alive? What has happened to them?

[Rabin] I can say nothing with certainty. We are in the midst of an interrogation, which is not a simple process and which requires time. I prefer at this stage not to issue any facts other than what has been published already.

I believe, however, that we will know much more. From the force of the Hizballah reaction I get the impression that they believe this shaykh knows a lot—perhaps much more than even we estimated—both about the Hizballah activities in Lebanon, and about the connection between Hizballah and Iran.

[Ronen] Has he not said everything yet?

[Rabin] In my opinion, he is far from having said everything he knows.

[Shlonsky] Is Israel considering extraditing him to the United States after the interrogation if his relation to the Higgins kidnapping is proven?

[Rabin] No. He is in our hands and he will remain in our hands, because we regard him as an asset for possible negotiations for the exchange of POW's and MIA's.

[Shlonsky] You were the focus of contacts with the Americans in recent days. You met with Ambassador Brown. What did the Americans want from us? Did they exert pressure at any stage? Perhaps in the hours before the expiration of the ultimatum regarding Higgins?

[Rabin] There has been no U.S. request to release the shaykh, nor any appeal directing us to do or not do certain things. Naturally, there have been differences of opinion as to the operation and its goal. The operation took the Americans by surprise, of course. We made the decision to carry out the operation absolutely alone; we informed no foreign element of the operation before it was carried out.

[Ronen] In general, are you pleased with the U.S. Administration's reaction to the operation and the subsequent events?

[Rabin] Look, I did not seek U.S. support for our operation. The operation was carried out to satisfy Israeli needs. I know that their policy with regard to a possible exchange deal differs from ours. Because of this difference there are also divergent views on what should be done as a result of this policy.

[Shlonsky] With your permission, I would like to move on to another issue which has been somewhat pushed off the agenda, that is the situation in the territories. I would like to ask whether you believe that additional steps should be taken to speed up the process toward elections in the territories, or should we make do at this stage with meetings such as those the prime minister conducted with Mr Jamil al-Tarifi?

[Rabin] I believe that at this stage we must seek to do more on two parallel axes in order to solve the problems we face east of us. One is the political, diplomatic axis of the peace process. What will make or break it is finding a partner among the inhabitants of the territories. The second axis is our responsibility for maintaining law and order and public safety; in other words operating against violence in the territories. For both these we must look continuously for ways to make progress. During the past month I have believed that it was wrong for me to hold too many talks with inhabitants of the territories, because on the eve of the Fatah conference it is difficult for those in the territories who want to respond to do so. Internal power struggles in Fatah make it more difficult to make significant progress. I therefore prefer to wait until after the Fatah conference, which as far as we know will convene tomorrow. I believe that things will be easier afterward. As a result of the events in Lebanon, I believe the reverberations will be smaller than they would otherwise have been.

[Ya'ari] A technical question: When you resume your meetings with inhabitants of the territories will you, like the prime minister, remove from the list of invitees people like Faysal al-Husayni, and others who live in East Jerusalem?

[Rabin] In all the talks I have conducted—and since the government initiative I have conferred with at least 30 inhabitants of the territories—I have met only with inhabitants of the territories.

[Ya'ari] Is there anything to prevent the defense minister from meeting with an Arab resident of Jerusalem?

[Rabin] There is nothing to prevent me. By the way, I do not see anything wrong with it, but I have not yet done so at this stage. I will wait another week and then resume the talks. I deem them important. I believe—based on reports I have received from the field, from the various security elements and the Civil Administration—that there is a growing desire in the territories to reach a political solution. I do not say that it is necessarily according to the government's initiative. I feel, however, that since the government adopted its decision on the initiative—with a lull during the nebulous period until the Likud Central Committee's conditions were lifted—that there has been activity along both axes: On the one hand, a search for a solution through negotiations, and on the other, a continuation of the IDF and the security forces' activities to maintain law and order and suppress violence. The two complement each other and enable us to make progress in cutting down violence and increasing the chance that within a certain period—which I will not put in a time frame—a way will be found to set up a representation among the inhabitants of the territories with which we can begin negotiations on the elections as part of the move proposed in the peace initiative.

Arens Says Hizballah 'Under Heavy Pressure'

TA0208151089 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Gid'on Reicher; in the studio—live]

[Text] [Reicher] Good afternoon, Mr Minister.

[Arens] Good afternoon.

[Reicher] I am glad you could come to the studio immediately after your meeting with John Kelly, the U.S. assistant secretary of state.

[Arens] I am glad to be here.

[Reicher] Does this meeting indicate that we are party to the current series of international moves to release the foreign hostages?

[Arens] We—Israel and the United States—are certainly partners in the war against terrorism. I hope this partnership will be fruitful.

[Reicher] Could you explain, in a word or two, the goal of the special envoy's visit?

[Arens] The special envoy, Mr Kelly, did not arrive here in the wake of the hostage crisis. I would say his visit is a routine get-acquainted meeting, Mr Kelly having just assumed his duties as the assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

[Reicher] He will certainly not miss the opportunity to discuss the issue of the day with you.

[Arens] We discussed this issue, but not exclusively—I would say not even mainly that issue. We discussed the peace process, Israeli-U.S. relations, issues which trouble us, as well as problems troubling them.

[Reicher] Then let us deal with an issue which troubles us. Today we heard Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin say in the Knesset that the Israeli Cabinet considered every possibility related to the kidnapping of 'Ubayd. Have we, Mr Foreign Minister, considered the possibility that we will hold the shaykh, but that the other party will refuse to negotiate with us, leaving our soldiers in captivity?

[Arens] Look, one has to be endowed with prophetic powers to be able to foresee all the possible responses of a group of lunatics such as the Hizballah. We accounted for every possibility to the best of our ability. We did everything we could to bring about the release of the kidnapped people. Right now, I think there is indeed a chance that our move will bring about the release of the kidnapped men.

[Reicher] What is the information on which you base your estimate?

[Arens] First of all, the estimate is based on the fact that the group called Hizballah is now under heavy pressure from several quarters.

[Reicher] Mr Minister, the defense minister said in the Knesset today that we are willing to negotiate for the release of foreign hostages as well. We have also heard that the United States is conducting negotiations on this issue with Syria and Iran. Are we party to these contacts?

[Arens] The United States is using its influence—I would say, its pressure—on two countries which are partly responsible for the problem: Iran, which supports the Hizballah, whose members are Khomeyni's disciples; and Syria, which controls the territory where acts of kidnapping are carried out, and hostages are held. Therefore, the United States has been exerting justifiable—and I hope efficient—pressure on these two countries.

[Reicher] You have just said that we are dealing with lunatics. These lunatics, however, are threatening to kill more foreign hostages. If they continue killing them, God forbid, how will we explain it to international, and mainly U.S., public opinion?

[Arens] I think public opinion in the civilized world—certainly in the United States—is aware of the importance of waging the war against terrorism, a war led by the United States. We have a high regard for the U.S. stand on this issue, particularly President Bush's stand as expressed in recent days. The United States public realizes that when you wage a war against terrorism, you accept the risk of casualties. At the same time, you are aware that if you fail in this war, if you surrender to terrorism, your casualties will be many times more numerous.

[Reicher] We have heard other voices, too, such as Senator Dole's, who said that Israel should think more than once before carrying out a kidnapping operation involving U.S. citizens.

[Arens] I have heard Senator Dole, who is by the way a friend of Israel. I understand his concern for the lives of hostages, which we share. We are anxious about the lives of the U.S. hostages, about hostages from other countries, and certainly about the Israeli hostages. Nevertheless, the feelings of anxiety, anger, and frustration should be leveled at the people who carried out the assassinations and the kidnappings, rather than allies who fight against these terrorist organizations.

[Reicher] Do you think we should have involved the Americans in the planning of this operation, which affected their people as well?

[Arens] Our practice has always been not to involve the Americans or any other outside elements in the planning of operational activities. This, in my opinion, is a correct policy. By involving them, we may also implicate them. We will discuss this subject with the Americans in due time. We will hear them out and present our stands, but I foresee no change in our basic stance that we have followed in recent years.

[Reicher] Before we part, I would like to ask you whether you are optimistic about the chances to retrieve our imprisoned soldiers. I am asking because up to this minute Hizballah has not been willing to talk with us even through mediators, let alone directly.

[Arens] I hesitate to formulate an opinion. It is hard to predict what the future may bring, but I believe we are on the right track.

[Reicher] Thank you very much, Mr Foreign Minister.

U.S. Reaction to 'Ubayd Affair 'Embarrassing'

TA3107135089 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 31 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "What Language Does the United States Speak?"]

[Text] As far as Israel is concerned, U.S. behavior with regard to the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Hizballah leader in southern Lebanon, has been full of contradictions, confused, and embarrassing.

On one hand, the U.S. President has condemned the abduction; on the other, U.S. officials—suggesting their admiration—have been approaching Israel with requests for full information about the operation. The hypocritical European reaction, which has by now become a tradition, was to have been expected, but not so the U.S. fawning toward Shiite terror.

The United States, which has suffered at the hands of Hizballah more than any other country by having hundreds of its citizens either kidnapped or killed in terrorist attacks, mostly during the Lebanese war, should now stand by Israel as the standard-bearer and leader of the struggle against international terror. Past experience proves that the terror organizations, including Hizballah, interpret capitulation, fawning, and payment of ransom as signs of weakness. All these encourage more kidnappings and further capitulation. Israel has resorted to all the means at its disposal to arrive at an indirect dialogue with Hizballah on a prisoner exchange, but the Shiite extremists have ignored all humanitarian appeals and cynically played them down.

The United States has so far failed in all its efforts to bring about the release of its hostages. Israel's efforts to retrieve the soldiers held by Hizballah have also been to no avail. Perhaps an operation such as the one conducted by the Israeli Army will make the Shiites realize that kidnapping is no longer the weapon they thought it was, or an exclusive one at that. Perhaps this operation will bring that moment closer and give some chance to a prisoner exchange, although when it comes to people like Hizballah, nothing is certain. That is, if human life has any value in their eyes.

U.S. Said To Seek 'Scapegoats' in Hostage Affair

TA0208092189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] There is a growing feeling in Israel that it is the White House that is "adding fuel to the fire" against Israel. This was reported to our military correspondent. According to sources in Israel, the U.S. public initially regarded Israel as a country fighting against terrorism. Yet the White House with its statements caused an erosion in U.S. public opinion.

"This is almost the only U.S. body coming out with statements against us. It seems that the administration, weak and new as it may be, is looking for scapegoats in the hostage affair," the sources said.

Sources in the defense establishment noted that a year ago, the United States hijacked a Shiite member of Hizballah on the Greece-Cyprus route on the high seas after learning that he had been involved in the hijacking of the TWA plane. He is now facing trial in the United States.

South Lebanese Shiites Warn Iran Over Hostage

TA0308050489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Dozens of Shiite notables in south Lebanon villages yesterday called on the Iranian authorities and Hizballah leaders not to hurt the hostages in Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in the opinion of the notables, any harm done to the hostages may trigger a furious Israeli reaction in southern Lebanon and cause tens of thousands of Shiites to be turned back from the region to the north of the security zone. UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, will depart the UN Forces in Lebanon command in al-Naqurah for Beirut this morning to continue his talks for the release of the hostages. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the north:

[Hecht] The international diplomatic code does not recommend organizing petitions by notables on the eve of very important meetings. Still, with regard to the mission the UN undersecretary general is facing now, anything goes. The appeal to Tehran and Hizballah leaders in Beirut by Shiite notables in the south will serve Goulding's talks well.

A tripartite meeting was held in Tehran 2 weeks ago between Amal leader Nabih Birri, Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, and then presidential candidate Rafsanjani. The latter made it clear that as far as Iran goes, Hizballah is not its only concern in southern Lebanon, and that Tehran also intends to care for the masses of Shiites in Amal ranks. An agreement on cooperation between Amal and Hizballah was signed on that occasion. Now, the heads of the Shiite public in southern Lebanon want to call in their IOU's. If the hostages are executed, especially if the Israeli POW's are hurt in any way, then Israel, as they know, will react like a wounded animal. The inevitable result will be that tens of thousands of Shiite villagers will lose their homes and property and will again become refugees.

The appeal by the Shiite notables in southern Lebanon carries even more weight these days since tens of thousands of Shiites who fled the battlefields in Beirut have settled in southern Lebanon, in villages which had been deserted for a long time. The fate of these Shiites, too, then, is turning into a bargaining chip in the international war of nerves.

Netanyahu on Bringing Foreign Forces into Jordan

JN0208165489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The Knesset has asked the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee to add to its agenda the topic of the crisis in Jordan. The proposal was presented by the Alignment MK (Hagai Marom).

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu responded by saying that Israel is concerned to know to what extent Jordan is ready to participate in the peace process because it is impossible to achieve peace without the participation of Jordan, which has the longest border with Israel.

The deputy foreign minister added that Israel is following events in Jordan closely, particularly the possibility of bringing foreign forces into Jordan. The deputy foreign minister added that Jordan's accusations to Israel on devaluing the Jordanian dinar are baseless.

Al-Tarifi Leaves for Jordan Amid Death Threats

TA0308045089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Birah lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, who was due to meet John Kelly today, left on a surprise visit to Jordan yesterday. Sources close to al-Tarifi say he is on his way to Europe for a vacation, but Ramallah residents claim that Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni ejected al-Tarifi from the delegation to meet with Kelly, and that al-Tarifi left the country after receiving death threats from Palestinian extremists.

Palestinians See Kelly Meeting as U.S.-PLO Ties

TA0308165189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] A delegation of 13 Palestinian notables from the territories conferred with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly this afternoon. The notables came at the invitation of the United States. The meeting lasted approximately 2 hours. The delegation members gave Kelly a political document signed by all the Palestinians invited to the meeting, including Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi who did not attend the meeting. The document included the Palestinians' demands, which they believe will advance the peace process. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports on the meeting:

The 13 Palestinian notables, at the Americans' invitation, arrived for a meeting with John Kelly this afternoon. Most of the guests are affiliated with the mainstream PLO, but also attending the meeting was a communist representative and a delegate on behalf of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Neither Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] nor Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine representatives were invited.

The notables held a 2-hour meeting with Kelly, in the course of which they presented him with a political document in which they emphasized that they view the meeting with Kelly as another phase in the contacts between the United States and the PLO. They rejected the election plan for the territories under Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's terms, and demanded that Israel accept their conditions: territories for peace, and recognition of Palestinian self-determination.

Upon leaving the meeting, the Palestinians said that the document was also signed by attorney Jamil al-Tarifi, who was absent from the meeting, and that the Americans did not present anything new—neither U.S. proposals nor Israeli suggestions.

The delegation members emphasized that they, too, came to the meeting with nothing new, only with the PLO's conditions. According to Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, it was a kind of get-acquainted meeting for John Kelly:

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording—in English] We did not agree in all points. He is trying to push forward the election proposal and he is trying to tell us how, what is the position of the United States about the elections. We also told him the position of the Palestinians about the election, which is based on two things: nothing could happen without the PLO approval; and second, nothing would happen also without the Palestinians' self-determination. [end recording]

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives With Message for King
JN0108194489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and convey to his majesty the king a message from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the coordination and consultations between the two fraternal states and the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Upon his arrival at Amman airport, Ramadan was welcomed by Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs; senior officials; and Iraqi Embassy staff in Amman.

Tomorrow morning Ramadan will open the exhibition of Iraqi products which will be held at the King 'Abdallah Gardens complex as part of the trade and commodity exchanges between the two fraternal states.

King Receives Saddam Message
JN0108194889 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpt] His majesty the king received at al-Nadwah Palace this evening the Iraqi First Deputy Premier Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan. During the meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Mr Ramadan conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the latest Arab and international developments in the course of coordination and consultations between the two countries. The meeting was also attended by the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the deputy premier and interior minister. [passage omitted]

Ibn-Shakir, Al-Qasim Return From Jeddah 2 Aug
JN0208161289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Amman—His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir returned to Amman this afternoon after accompanying His Majesty King Husayn on his recent trip to Saudi Arabia. Returning with the prime minister was Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

His excellency and al-Qasim remained in Jeddah at the request of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to continue the Jordanian-Saudi talks which were held last Monday and Tuesday [31 July and 1 August]. [passage omitted]

Paper on Higgins Killing, Israeli 'Lawlessness'
JN0208091489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Israeli Terrorism"]

[Text] U.S. Senate minority leader Robert Dole was of course right when he openly and strongly criticised Israel for abducting Lebanese Shiite leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. The operation, Dole correctly asserted, has precipitated the killing of American hostage William Higgins and threatened the lives of nine American hostages and scores of others including Terry Waite. It is worthwhile recalling that Senator Dole has this to say in the aftermath of the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd: "I would hope the Israelis would take another look at some of their actions which they must know in advance endanger American lives." He went on to say: "When it endangers the lives of Americans in some foreign country perhaps a little more responsibility on the part of the Israelis one of these days would be refreshing."

Obviously Dole and many silent Americans have decided to speak up to release their pent up frustrations with Israel's behaviour. For much too long Israel was outrageously contemptuous of international norms and guidelines and often acted like a bandit state unperturbed by international law and customary nation-state rules. By taking the law into its own hands for decades, its vision and national behaviour became so distorted and warped that even its closest allies and friends became enraged and exasperated by its actions.

Surely Israel must know that it is one thing for an organisation or a group to engage in piracy and kidnapping and quite another for a modern state to lower itself so often to the same standard of behaviour. The central problem here is that Israel was allowed to get away with murder for so long that it got to the point where it calculates that it can continue to get away with murder, kidnapping, demolition of homes and expulsion of people from their country without causing much of a stir where it counts most.

Still, all these explanations would not lessen the gravity of the execution of Lt. Colonel Higgins, who was in the service of the United Nations when he was abducted a year and a half ago. His outrageous killing was apparently a reaction to the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd and therefore he sadly paid with his own blood for the blatantly unstatelike abduction of 'Ubayd by the Israeli Army.

Now it seems that the lives of Terry Waite and others are also threatened unless Israel releases Shaykh 'Ubayd forthwith. Under the circumstances it behoves Shaykh 'Ubayd to exercise Islamic traditions, at their most solemn and sublime levels, by appealing to his people and supporters to refrain from further shedding of innocent blood in reaction to Israel's lawlessness. By taking the first compassionate move, Shaykh 'Ubayd would surely gain the sympathy and support of all mankind

which will surely galvanize on such a scale that his release would become imminent. By such a gesture, the true colour of Islam would shine ever more brilliantly for all other civilisations to see and appreciate.

Editorial Calls For Arab Efforts in Lebanon

JN0308092789 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Aug 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Solving the Lebanese Crisis Remains an Arab Responsibility"]

[Text] Following the announcement by the tripartite Arab committee's foreign ministers that their efforts have reached a dead end, the Lebanese crisis once again finds itself before a fateful, critical turning point. The situation, already complicated, is now ripe for further complications, aggravations, and intricacies with all that this entails in term of new military escalation and political conflicts.

The endeavors of the tripartite Arab committee represented a small window of hope toward which the Lebanese people had looked in an otherwise blank wall, especially since the committee had offered a serious, studied alternative to the fierce bloodshed and war in Lebanon.

The announcement by the tripartite committee's foreign ministers that they have clashed with the stands of this or that party to the conflict and that the committee's concept of how to solve the Lebanese crisis has been rejected by this or that party shows that the matter is only an attempt to foil the Arab solution of the Lebanese problem, thereby opening wide the door for further internationalization and complication of the problem.

Thus, we view the call for convening an urgent Arab summit to discuss the failure of the tripartite Arab committee's efforts as only the first step on the road to the entire Arab nation's resuming its responsibilities toward that afflicted country, which remains in any case and under all circumstances a founding member of the Arab League and which will always remain a brotherly Arab country.

While we look with pain and sadness on the severe plight of the brothers in Lebanon and the tribulation and evils they experience as a result of extremism and internecine fighting, we hope that the conclusion reached by the tripartite committee will not represent the end of Arab efforts to stop the Lebanese blood bath. For the Arabs to keep their hands off Lebanon under the present tragic circumstances will increase the bloodshed and escalate conflicts and foreign interfernce, and which will only serve the enemies of Lebanon and of an Arab solution in this fraternal country.

Committees Begin Revising Voter Lists

JN0208085389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—Committees entrusted with revising voter lists for the coming parliamentary elections embarked on their task Wednesday and according to the law they have 57 days to complete their work, Amman Governor Muhamman 'Ali al-Amin said.

He said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, that nomination of candidates running for elections will take place 25 days before the election day, and that the counting of votes should be completed in one day, according to the election law.

Al-Amin said that the committees are being assisted in their work by information received from the Civil Registration Department and the courts of law because they have to include citizens who reached 19 years of age, who are eligible to vote, and will omit the names of convicted persons who are serving sentences in jail.

The committees, Al-Amin added, will also be dealing with complaints and protests raised by members of the public.

Referring to elections in the capital, Al-Amin said Amman has been divided into seven electoral zones to facilitate the election process and that a total of 21 seats in the coming parliament will be filled by candidates from the Amman area. The committees embarked on the amendment and revision of the voter lists in the wake of a Royal Decree which was issued Monday, providing for holding parliamentary elections in accordance with the first article of paragraph 34 of the Jordanian Constitution.

The election law state that the cabinet should set the date of the elections following the issuance of the Royal Decree.

The government has not yet announced the exact date for the elections but press reports predict that it will be in November.

Another Royal Decree issued last month endorsed an amendment to the 1986 election law which increased the number of seats in the Lower House of Parliament from 72 to 80.

The amendment included modifications on constituency divisions which, under the revised law will be divided according to Governorates except for Amman and Irbid Governorates

Under the new law, Irbid Governorate wil have 19 seats in the coming Parliament.

Al-Balqa' Governorate eight, al-Zarqa' six, al-Mafraq three, al-Karak nine, Ma'an five, al-Tafilah three and the Badia [desert areas] six seats. [passage omitted]

Cicippio Execution Further Delayed 4 Hours

NC0308111289 Paris AFP in English 1107 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 3 (AFP)—The kidnappers of U.S. hostage Jose Ciccipio announced at midday Thursday that they had delayed his "execution" by another four hours.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization, in a communique delivered to a western news agency in Beirut, said the new delay came after an "appeal from Cicippio" which was shown on an accompanying videotape.

The group had said they would kill the 58-year old accountant unless Israel released a Shiite fundamentalist leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, by 6 p.m. (1500 GMT).

Further on Delay

NC0308112989 Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 3 (AFP)—The kidnappers of U.S. hostage Joseph Ciccipio announced at midday Thursday that they had stayed his "execution" by another four hours.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization (RJO), in a communique delivered to a western news agency in Beirut, said the new delay came after an "appeal from Cicippio" which was shown on an accompanying videotape.

The group had said they would kill the 58-year old accountant unless Israel released a Shiite fundamentalist leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, by 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) Thursday. The delay would push the deadline back to 10 p.m. (1900 GMT.)

In the videotape, a heavily bearded Mr. Cicippio is shown reading from an off-camera statement, written in English but containing grammatical errors.

"I appeal to each person having honour who can move to release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd," who was abducted July 28 by Israeli commandos in south Lebanon, he read.

"Don't be late, because they are very serious to hang us and the period becomes very soon and the hours very little."

The RJO, a shadowy pro-Iranian extremist group, had originally threatened to kill Mr. Cicippio unless Shaykh 'Ubayd were released by 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Shortly after that deadline expired, they extended the deadline by 48 hours, citing appeals from "friends" and Mr. Cicippio's Lebanese wife.

But the group had ruled out any further delays.

"We, the American people are always the victims of Israel's politics, and President (George) Bush has not helped to free us," said Mr. Cicippio's statement.

"Goodbye my wife. If you don't hear my voice and see my face again, I want you to look after yourself and don't be sad, and always remember me."

Another pro-Iranian group, the "Organization of the Oppressed of the World," released a videotape Monday showing U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel Higgins whom is said it had hanged after Israel failed to release Shaykh 'Ubayd.

RJO Substitutes Initiative for Cicippio Sentence

NC0308184189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1831 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] At 2100 today AL-NAHAR newspaper received a message from the Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO] along with a photo of U.S. hostage Cicippio. The message said that the RJO will freeze the death sentence and substitute a two-point initiative for it. The first point is the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd and a number of the intifadah [uprising] fighters and heroes of the resistance against the Israeli occupation, according to the message. The lists and numbers will be fixed in the coming days through the Lebanese Red Cross. The second point is that the announcement of the agreement will be made in the coming few days.

Hizballah's Al-Musawi Threatens United States

'Violent' Revenge Threatened

NC0208192989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1905 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi has threatened that Hizballah's revenge will be violent if the United States launched a military action against Lebanon. He said that if U.S. President George Bush should take any measure, he would be taught a lesson that he will not forget. He pointed out that Washington could not pay the price for committing another crime in the region.

Al-Musawi said that Hizballah will exert all sorts of pressure to make Israel release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. He said that Hizballah's hands can reach far away. He declared that it is well known that the Islamic resistance is holding two Israeli soldiers.

Responding to a question on the possibility of killing a soldier if Shaykh 'Ubayd is not released, al-Musawi said that everything is possible because our war with Israel is open and endless and that Israel understands only the language of force.

Further on Al-Musawi Remarks

NC0308073889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] In a press interview yesterday, His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi said that Hizballah will exact a fierce revenge if America undertakes any military action against the groups holding the hostages. America, he said, should think a million times before it does anything stupid, for the retaliation of Hizballah will have no boundaries.

Responding to the news that the United States is assembling naval units in the Mediterranean, his eminence said that Washington will not be able to pay the price of committing another crime in the region. U.S. President George Bush, al-Musawi said, is at the beginning of his term and will think a million times before taking such a step. Al-Musawi recalled the attack on the Marines in 1983, noting that the attack was a difficult lesson for the United States which that country will never forget.

Al-Musawi said that Hizballah will exert every possible pressure to make Israel release Shaykh 'Ubayd. The hands of the mujahidin can reach a long way, and these hands have found no task too daunting so far, he added. Al-Musawi also called for the release of all the Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims who are in Israeli prisons.

Al-Musawi was asked about the possibility of one of the Israeli soldiers who are being held captive in Lebanon being killed if Israel fails to free Shaykh 'Ubayd. He replied : Anything is possible in our war with the Zionist entity. His eminence added: Our war with Israel is going to be harsh.

Al-Musawi urged awareness of the plots being hatched. He also denied the existence of any direct or indirect contacts with the Jewish state concerning a swap of the Israeli soldiers.

Hizballah Denies 'Ubayd Involved in Terrorism

NC0308080989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] A responsible source in Hizballah has denied Israeli media reports claiming that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd has confessed to his participation in terrorist acts, including the kidnapping of Lieutenant Colonel Higgins and two Israeli soldiers.

The source said that there is no truth whatsoever in these allegations, through which Israel is trying to justify its action and its piracy. Shaykh 'Ubayd had no connection with military affairs; his role was solely one of spiritual and political guidance.

Shiite Leader on Kidnappings, Arab Committee Role

NC0208162189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Grand Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan has called on the Tripartite Arab Committee to continue its mission and stressed that the Lebanese crisis can only be tackled through the Arab initiative. He said that the committee's declaration does not mean a disappointment but a warning of the consequences of continuing to impede its efforts.

Shaykh Qabalan condemned all types of kidnappings, terrorism, and attacks on people's liberties. He stressed that the aim of Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is to impede all the efforts being made to implement the Arab resolutions.

Mufti Qabalan said that the dead end reached by the tripartite committee was expected but it does not mean shirking the responsibility or halting the search for the solutions that are appropriate for the Lebanese people. He added: This is merely to put matters in order so that all officials can shoulder their responsibility toward the deteriorating security situation in Beirut and Lebanon. The formation of the Higher Arab Committee by the Arab kings and presidents did not reflect a superficial look at the situation but was meant for an in-depth discussion of the situation and for drawing up the bases for building the modern and just Lebanese republic.

He added: We believe that the mission of the Arab kings and president members of the tripartite committee is to observe the situation. But when the hour of decision comes, their mission will be a pioneering one that will remove all obstacles and open all closed roads.

Rafsanjani's Brother Linked to Higgins' Death

JN0208153489 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Paris, Aug. 2, INA—The Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq said that Mahmud Hashemi-Rafsanjani, director of the Third Bureau of the Iranian regime's Foreign Ministry and one of the brothers of President-to-be Rafsanjani, was secretly sent to Syria a few days ago in order to closely supervise the terrorist acts of the regime's proxies in Lebanon, including the execution of the American hostage, Colonel Higgins.

In a statement here today, the organization said that Mahmud Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Damascus is in constant contact with Hoseyn Shami, the top 'Hizballah' official based in Tehran who is currently in Beirut with his deputy, 'Abdorrahman Qasir, known as Abu-Qasir. Shami, Qasir and several other 'Hizballah' officials, all of whom are based in Tehran, were sent to Lebanon on specific assignments three weeks ago and were due to return to Tehran last week. Later, however, they

The Mojahedin-e Khalq statement added that Mahmud Hashemi-Rafsanjani is accompanied on this trip by two of his aides, Sa'edi and Beh-Avar. Since his arrival in Syria, he was been holding numerous meetings with Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and Hamid Haddadkar-Qavi, the "cultural" officer for Syria and Lebanon in the Foreign Ministry's Third Bureau. Both men are pivotal in organizing the Khomeyni regime-sponsored terrorism in Lebanon.

A long time ago, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani concentrated the responsibility for coordinating all the terrorist policies and activities of the regime in Lebanon in the "Lebanon Committee" of the Foreign Ministry's Third Bureau. He then put his own brother in charge of the bureau to act under his direct guidance. The final go-ahead for any operation by the regime's agents in Lebanon has henceforth been given by Rafsanjani through the "Lebanon Committee"

The statement further added that late last week, Iranian regime's authorities hurriedly sent back to Beirut a large number of their agents from Lebanon who had come to Tehran.

It said that the Pasdaran (Guards) Corps forces in Lebanon, commanded by Seyyed Maki (based in Syria), are responsible for military training of terrorists, operational planning, interrogations and other intelligence operations by the regime's proxy terrorist groups in Lebanon. The terrorists are trained locally and in Iran. The Guards Corps has set aside special camps such as camp Manzariyeh in Tehran and Camp (Najafabadi) in Qom, for this purpose. The Guards detachment in Lebanon receives its orders from Kazemi, a member of the central staff of the guards corps based in Tehran's Qasr-e-Firozeh barracks.

The statement pointed out that in the absence of Mahmud Hashemi-Rafsanjani, his deputy, Dastmalchi, acts as the contact in Tehran between him and the president-to-be. The latter conveys his instructions to his brother in Syria through Dastmalchi, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who has been leading the regime's terrorist networks for several years, has thus been encouraged and become greedier by the blind eye that certain governments have turned on his activities, to order further acts of terror, such as the assassination of Qasemlu, the Mecca bombing during the Hajj pilgrimage and now the execution of Higgins.

Pope Ready To Mediate in Lebanon Hostage Crisis

AU0308100589 Rome ANSA in English 0825 GMT 3 Aug 89

["Vatican: Pope To Mediate for Return of Higgins' Body"—ANSA headline]

[Text] (ANSA) Vatican City [no dateline as received]—Pope John Paul II is willing to mediate for the body of Lt. Cl. William Higgins to be returned to the United States, and is also prepared to put his every effort into helping Lebanon peace initiatives, the Vatican Press Office announced Wednesday.

Lt. Cl. Higgins, who had been in the hands of a pro-Iranian Islamic group, the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth, since February 1988, was hanged on Monday after Israel had refused to accede to the group's demands for the release of fundamentalist cleric Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd captured last Friday by an Israeli commando unit.

The pope's offer came in response to an appeal from U.S. President George Bush for his intervention towards securing the release of Higgins' body. John Paul II had expressed "the Holy See's willingness to find the best solution for this problem," the Vatican Press Office communique said.

He had also, the communique added, reiterated "his constant concern that those responsible and the other parties involved should find ways towards a constructive understanding, in the higher interests of peace and the full development of peoples in the Middle East and in the whole world."

The pontiff had also sent a message to Bush, the communique went on, in which he repeated his willingness to work towards the setting-up of an international Middle East negotiation process, which would bring "all the parties" involved around the table—and therefore Israel, the Arab countries, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation—in order to put an end to the continuing drama being enacted in the Lebanon.

John Paul II has indeed always followed the situation in the Lebanon very closely, as Wednesday's communique underlined, referring to messages recently sent to Chadli Klibi, secretary of the Arab League, and to various United Nations member countries directly or indirectly affected by Lebanese events.

As for the return of Higgins' body, Vatican diplomatic services are already making the first moves to contact the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth. A year ago Vatican diplomacy successfully obtained permission from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the body of a U.S. pilot killed in a raid on Tripoli to be returned home.

UN Envoy Goulding Meets With Fadlallah

NC0308093789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding met with Hizballah's spiritual leader scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today. They discussed the circumstances surrounding the execution of U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins.

It has been learned tht Goulding will ask Fadlallah for help in retrieving Higgins' body and preventing any further killing of hostages.

Goulding and his aide had flown from al-Naqurah to East Beirut. From there they went to West Beirut for a meeting with Shaykh Fadlallah.

Asks Fadlallah To Intervene

NC0308162989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1553 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Security sources have said that UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding has asked scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah to use his influence to get the kidnappers of the hostages to hand over the body of Colonel Higgins if he was killed and to act to prevent the killing of other hostages.

Goulding said: I hope that no harm will be done to Ciccipio, because if he is harmed, this will lead to the aggravation of the hostage crisis, which has indeed become serious. He said: There is nothing that justifies the kidnapping and killing of innocent people because of their nationality.

Comments on Meeting

NC0308114389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding has met with Hizballah spiritual leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. They discussed the circumstances of Colonel Higgins' execution. After the meeting, Goulding said: I pray God that Higgins is still alive. If he has been killed, however, we want to retrieve his body for humanitarian reasons. Goulding and his aide then left for the Iranian Embassy to meet with officials there.

Goulding also met with Ja'afarite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, who said: We have demanded the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd because his abduction will intensify the resistance struggle. On the Higgins issue, Qabalan said: We oppose any act of kidnapping, terrorism, or killing.

Israeli Reinforcements Reported in South

NC0308075589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Excerpt] According to reports from the South, the Israeli occupation forces are reinforcing their positions and troop concentrations in the South and in western al-Biqa'. The reports state that the enemy forces deployed armored reinforcements in these areas in the past 36 hours. Four Merkava tanks and six troop carriers were seen to have deployed in Kawbaba after passing through Dardarah and Suq al-Khan.

An Israeli force deployed along the Kafr Huna confrontation line after advancing up the al-Khardali-al-'Ayshiyah road. The reports add that along with these reinforcements, enemy officers in the occupied area are holding meetings with officers of the agent Lahd command in Marj 'Uyun camp. At the same time there have been a number of sorties by Israeli Air Force fighter aircraft and helicopters over the occupied southern areas. Yesterday there were low-altitude flights up as far as Sidon, where the planes conducted mock air raids. Two Israeli military helicopters flew over the hills of western al-Biqa' yesterday, while joint patrols of the Israeli forces and their agents carried out intensive activities in the approaches to western al-Biqa' and Jazzin. [passage omitted]

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Southeast of Sidon Noted

NC0208172789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 02 Aug 89

[Text] Clashes took place between Amal and Hizballah gunmen southeast of Sidon this afternoon. Both parties have alerted and deployed their gunmen there. These are the first clashes to take place after the two parties reaffirmed in Tehran their adherence to the Damascus agreement.

Syrian, Lebanese Armies Exchange Fire 2 Aug

NC0308060689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The Syrian occupation forces shelled the free areas last night. The shelling, which began at 2230 and continued until 0400 this morning, affected the areas of al-Ashrafiyah, al-Matn, Kasrawan, and Jubayl. One citizen was killed in the bombardment.

The Lebanese Army returned the fire, shelling Syrian artillery emplacements in Za'rur, Tarshish, 'Ayn al-Sihhah, 'Uyun al-Rihban, and Bulunya. It also shelled Syrian positions in West Beirut, including al-Muruj, Cocodi, al-Mazra'ah, Jall al-Bahr, and al-Nahdah.

Media sources in West Beirut have reported that shells fell in the military beach, al-Rawshah, and R'as Bayrut areas.

Soldiers Killed in Infiltration Try

NC0308082089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] A guarded calm prevails over all the traditional combat lines in Beirut, the southern suburb, and the mountain area, following the overnight shelling of the military beach, al-Rawshah, 'Alayh, Kayfun, and Baysur which lasted from shortly before midnight until early this morning.

A military group from the al-Yarzah [General Michel 'Awn's] army attempted to infiltrate into a secluded building near Hayy Madi in the southern suburb and

establish a position there. A group from the Islamic resistance mujahidin advanced, planted explosives, and blew up the building with all those inside it. Twelve soldiers were killed in the blast.

Organization Threatens Pro-Syrian Leader in Tripoli
NC0208131189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Reacting to the statement by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, in which he called for annexing Lebanon's territories to Syria, the 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli threatened him. It called on him to halt his suspicious practices, to leave Tripoli immediately, and to join Syria and Iran instead of annexing Lebanon to Syria.

The organization added: Sha'ban's presence constitutes a danger to our country and people. He is consolidating the Syrian occupation. We know how to get at him and at agents like him.

More Foreign Reaction on Col Higgins, 'Ubayd

JN0208141289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Riyadh—A responsible Saudi source yesterday denounced the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the imam of Jibshit village in southern Lebanon, by the Israeli occupation forces. The source also condemned the killing of Higgins. Radio Riyadh said that the source affirmed that Saudi Arabia always condemns and denounces all terrorist operations of any kind.

The Italian Foreign Ministry also strongly denounced Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd from southern Lebanon last Friday [28 July]. ASSOCIATED PRESS said that the ministry described this abduction in a statement as a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty.

Bettino Craxi, head of the Italian Socialist Party, yesterday expressed his great concern over the killing of the U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins. However, he affirmed that this does not void Israel's responsibility for following a policy of provocation and force.

In Sydney, Australian Foreign Ministry Gareth Evans today criticized the operation committed by Israel of abducting Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd last Friday. News agencies said that Evans, who was talking to correspondents in Sydney, also denounced the killing of U.S. hostage William Higgins. He expressed his government's concern over the course of events in southern Lebanon.

'Awn Blamed for Failure of Arab Committee

JN0108174889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It has been clear from the outset—since the usurpation of the legitimate authority in Lebanon—that 'Awn and his agent clique have sought to achieve one objective; that is, to thwart all efforts to save Lebanon, resolve its crisis, and end the suffering of its citizens in order to push this fraternal state to division and fragmentation in implementation of the Zionist conspiracy, and to achieve the Israeli enemy's ambition to expand at the expense of Arab territory.

The Arab efforts to save Lebanon have faced three main obstacles which have caused numerous problems. To be specific, these obstacles were the following: the flow of weapons by the Iraqi regime to 'Awn and his clique, the tools of the Israeli conspiracy; the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon; and the exploitation by the agent clique of the Zionist support, aggression, and occupation to reject the demands of the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese as regards reform, justice, and equality; to destroy the security situation; to destroy houses and property; and to demolish the infrastructure of the unified Lebanon.

'Awn and his clique principally shoulder the responsibility for what has befallen Lebanon and also for the fate of the Arab efforts launched by the extraordinary Casablanca summit—efforts which had Syria's full backing and support to help them accomplish their mission. Syria has remained faithful to its pan-Arab pledges, seeking with all sincere parties to safeguard Lebanon, its unity, and its independence so that it can return to its distinguished role within its Arab community. Syria has spared no effort in helping the Lebanese people and their nationalist and progressive forces overcome the ordeal and foil the conspiracy of division and fragmentation.

In contrast, a review of past events will confirm to us that the only promise honored by 'Awn is the one pertaining to destruction, to setting Beirut on fire, and to evacuating its residents; that is, the one related to implementing the role he was asked to play by Zionist quarters, the role which he played in full. Hence, 'Awn insisted on continuing the policy of killing and assassinating the innocent. He usurped the shelters of the Presidential Palace in B'abda and from there began to exercise his destructive policy which he was good at pursuing.

Events and developments have confirmed that those who built bridges of cooperation with the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs shoulder the sole responsibility for the crimes being perpetrated in Lebanon. They will be taken to task by the people of fraternal Lebanon, with all of its denominations and factions; as they are responsible for the fate of the sincere and honest efforts made by the Arab committee.

The Lebanese people will not allow the division conspiracy to succeed. Besides, they will not allow these agents to persist in the game of death and destruction. They will know how properly to punish them for their treason. Arab Syria will not budge a hair's breadth on its sacred mission of serving the pan-Arab objectives of the Arab nation. It will continue to back and support the fraternal Lebanese people and their nationalist forces in the face of the suicidal plan and the Zionist scheme until the conspiracy is foiled and its figures are toppled. There will be no place in fraternal Lebanon for the conspirators or for those trading the souls and property of people. The Lebanese people and the Arab nation, foremost among which is Syria, cannot accept to see Lebanon serve as a base or avenue for launching a Zionist onslaught, as this goes against the logic of history and also conflicts with the higher pan-Arab interests.

'Awn-Saddam-Israel 'Alliance' Over Lebanon

JN0208163689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Zionized cliques in Lebanon, who are harmed by any solution or opportunity which comes under the auspices of Arab initiative or Arab action, are escalating their bestial and destructive crimes

and shelling with the aim of bringing the Arab efforts to a deadend and moving Lebanon from the Arab sphere into the Israeli sphere. Their aim is to fragment, partition, and transform Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate and base for aggression and conspiracy against Syria and the Arab nation. 'Awn and his Zionized clique are today waging a war on behalf of Israel against Lebanon and its people and are trying to achieve what the May agreement, the Israeli invasion, and the NATO fleets failed to achieve. To implement his ugly crime, 'Awn depends on the Iraqi fascist regime's support which has transferred its destructive activity against the Arab nation to Lebanon. It deludes itself into believing that in this way it may compensate for its failure. It also implements the parts of the Israeli scheme entrusted to it against the Arabs, their causes, and struggle.

The goals of the suspect alliance between 'Awn, Saddam, and the Zionist enemy are no secret to anyone. The target of the crimes, such as killing Lebanese people, destroying Lebanon, and building bridges of cooperation and coordination with Israel over parts of Lebanon and the Lebanese, have also been revealed. This fact has become clear ever since 'Awn and Saddam stood against the Casablanca summit resolutions, revealed their alliance with the Zionist partitionist scheme, and escalated the shelling, killing, and destruction in the Lebanese arena. Their aim is to place obstacles in the way of Arab action and ruin any opportunity or initiative of hope looming on the horizon, because the continuation of the Lebanese crisis is in the interest of Israel, and because 'Awn does not care whether he destroys Lebanon, so long as it provides him with the opportunity to continue controlling the Lebanese people with iron and fire. The fascist Saddam, who destroyed Iraq, longs to destroy Lebanon as well, so long as this goal represents a link in the Israeli scheme against the Arab nation—a scheme which agents are desperate to implement immediately in the Lebanese arena.

The Lebanese people with all their experience in struggle and hardship and with Syrian and Arab support, will undoubtedly defeat the Israeli scheme and foil the isolationist and partitionist plan just as they foiled the May agreement and defeated the Israeli invasion forces and the NATO fleets.

Lebanon's unity and Arab identity are national and pan-Arab constants which no one is allowed to tamper or meddle with—no matter what pretexts and excuses they create and try to hide behind in order to conceal their suspect links with Israeli schemes which they help to implement.

The way to solve the Lebanon crisis is well known. It lies in honest action to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions on the basis of carrying out political reform, spreading equality and justice amongst the sons of the same nation, and strengthening Lebanon's unity and Arab identity. Those who oppose these constants and stand against the solution are those who represent an Israeli state which must be foiled to save Lebanon and its people, to safeguard Lebanon against the dangers surrounding it, and to insure the Arab nation's safety, national security, future struggle, victory of its causes, liberty of its land, and retrieval of its rights.

Al-Asad on Lebanon Role to Expatriates

JN0208183889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpts] At 1230 today President Hafiz al-Asad received the delegation of the organization of Arab expatriates of the American continent, Fia-Arab, headed by Mr Muhammad Murad, head of the union of Arab-American institutions. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [passage omitted]

The president reviewed the modern history of our Arab homeland. He pointed out the role played by Zionism and imperialism in partitioning this homeland and affirmed Syria's adherence to the goal of unity.

The president touched on the Lebanese situation saying: Syria has never been for one Lebanese group at the expense of another. It has supported and sided with all Lebanese nationalist who care about the unity, liberty, and Arab identity of Lebanon. It heeded the call of the Lebanese brothers to stop the civil war and help them in achieving national accord. Syria's policy to offer aid to the Lebanese brothers to reach national accord and a national solution which preserves Lebanon's unity and Arab identity, and helps in liberating its territory from the Israeli occupation, is a firm policy.

The president referred to Israel's and its agents' role in igniting the situation recently. He affirmed that Syria will not allow the Israeli conspiracy to come to pass in Lebanon.

The president conveyed his and Syria's greetings to all the expatriate brothers in all foreign countries. He affirmed that Syria's doors are open to them at any time.

Al-Asad Sends Cable to Egyptian Lawyers Union

JN0208170689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad sent a cable to Mr Ahmad al-Khawajah, the doyen of lawyers in the Arab Republic of Egypt, in answer to a cable his excellency received on the occasion of the first convention of the Lawyers' Union Council in Egypt. Following is the text of the president's reply:

I received with great emotion the cable you sent me in the name of the lawyers of Arab Egypt and your name on the occasion of the first convention of the Lawyers' Union Council in Egypt. In this cable, you expressed what every

Arab citizen thinks of in terms of hopes for Arab unity and that the Arab homeland will witness a united Arab colossus based on the unity of Egypt and Syria.

Historical facts have affirmed the importance of the unity of the two Arab countries, Egypt and Syria, and their role in defending the existence, dignity, and future of the Arab nation.

I wish to point out that it is the sentiment of millions of Syrian Arabs to retrieve unity with fraternal Egypt as a basic step toward comprehensive Arab unity. I am confident that these sentiments are those of millions of our Arab Egyptian people who have always been vanguards of struggle. They were always the leaders to defend Egypt, Syria, and the Arab nation.

Syria is proud that it built, along with its sister Egypt, the state of Arab unity. It was the first and only unity in modern Arab history.

The attacks of the enemies of unity on the unity state, taking the masses unawares, confirms the fateful importance of the united state built by the Egyptian and Syrian masses, which was the hope of Arab masses everywhere.

Syria's hand is always extended honestly and strongly to its sister Egypt to build unity and erase the traces of that setback which struck our pan-Arab and historic experience. Thus, we would achieve the great hope and fortress of the Arab nation because unity is our dearest hope and strongest fortress.

I wish you and your colleagues success in performing the duties entrusted to you by Egypt's lawyers on both the professional and pan-Arab levels. We hope that Egypt's lawyers will continue their unity march and be vanguard workers toward unity—the aim of the broad masses.

I hope you would convey my greetings and wishes of success to all your colleagues.

Afghanistan

AFP Cites Kabul Spokesman on Stockholm Talks

BK0308002889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1801 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 2 (AFP)—The Afghan Government said Wednesday it did not believe U.S.-Soviet talks on Afghanistan would fail despite lack of progress in the past two days.

"The important thing is that they be resumed. We believe there will be more and different political manoeuvres by the United States, but we do not believe they will lead to failure," government spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani told journalists here. "All we need from the U.S. is just one step (gesture) of good will," he said, adding that world opinion was now in favour of a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Mr Amani spoke after reports from Stockholm said the first formal meeting between experts of the Soviet Union and the United States had broken up with each side blaming the other for failure to make progress. Moscow backs the government of President Najibullah in Kabul, while Washington supports the Pakistan-based mujahidin rebels.

Mr Amani said the war had now reached the stage of "inner conflict" where Afghans were fighting Afghans and where "we can solve it (the conflict) on our own."

The mujahidin rebels, who have been fighting to oust Soviet troops from Afghanistan for the past 10 years, have refused to negotiate with the Najibullah government, saying it is a puppet of the Soviet Union.

The Afghan Government in turn has said that since the Soviet Union pulled out its troops on February 15 the most severe fighting has been in the areas bordering Pakistan, to where U.S. and Pakistani military supplies can be easily transported.

Government troops are armed and equipped by the Soviet Union, and Soviet Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov has repeatedly urged the two sides to get together and talk out a mutual arms reduction pact as a means towards ending the war.

More Mujahidin Rockets Found Near Kabul

BK0308004289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1916 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Kabul, Aug 2 (AFP)—Afghan troops defused three rebel rockets pointed at the capital Wednesday as a group of pro-government moslem clergymen demonstrated outside a U.N. office against countries supplying the weapons.

Government spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the three rockets were believed to belong to the mujahidin rebels, who are fighting the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah. All three were Egyptian-made Sakker-30 missiles with an effective range of 30 to 40 kilometers and were hidden in bushes in the district of Khake-i Jabar about 25 kilometers from the city center.

Mr Amani said they were aimed at the city and primed to go off, but was unable to say whether they had been equipped with timing or remote control devices.

In Kabul, the city was rocket-free for the second straight day, but the streets remained relatively empty as people stayed in the relative safety of their homes.

Mr Amani said the University in Jalalabad, closed since March 8, the beginning of a massive siege of the eastern city, had reopened August 1 after undergoing extensive repairs. He said some 1,500 of the 2,000-strong student population were believed to have returned for the beginning of the classes.

Jalalabad has been free of rocket attacks for several weeks as government troops expand and consolidate the city's defence perimeter, government sources said.

Mujahidin Operations in Various Places Noted

BK0308025889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] An AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY report says that about 1,500 Soviet soldiers have arrived in Kabul to assist Kabul regime forces in maintaining security. According to the news agency, these soldiers have been deployed in security posts around the capital.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin are increasing pressure on Kabul forces in Qandahar. The road between the city and the airport is now under continuous attacks. In their operations in Vardak, the mujahidin have shot down three helicopters and an aircraft in Maydan Province. The mujahidin have besieged the provincial headquarters of Maydan city and destroyed five tanks in fierce fighting. They repulsed an attack by the Kabul regime forces in Samar Kheyl and (Sardobari) area.

At least 11 civilians were killed when a long-range Scud missile fired by Kabul forces fell in the Zazi area of Paktia Province.

Civilians Killed by Bombings From Kabul Aircraft

BK0308062389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin attacked security posts in the southwestern part of Kabul city, killing more than 10 soldiers of the Kabul regime.

Meanwhile, according to another report, a number of civilians were killed in bombings by the Kabul regime's aircraft in Paghman and Gardeyz areas. They also fired artillery shells on these areas.

Military Operations Continue Around Jalalabad

LD0308084689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0527 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 2, BAKHTAR—Detachments and contingents of the armed forces deployed in Nangarhar Province advanced yesterday on the east direction of Samar Kheyl and occupied two enemy's strongholds. During the operations a large amount of enemy weapons were destroyed.

The extremists supported by the 11th Pakistani Corps fired rockets on security posts, and residential areas of Jalalabad city, resulted in killing six armed forces personnel and injuring 12 others.

The government armed forces retaliated, which resulted in killing 62 rpt 62 enemies and injuring 94 others, reported a BAKHTAR correspondent quoting an authorised military source.

As a result of the heavy shellings of the enemy on Qandahar Province and Khowst Grand District 3 soldiers were wounded.

The Khowst and Qandahar garrisons silenced the enemy, by retaliatory actions during which armaments including 5 rocket launchers, 4 heavy machine-guns and several light arms of the enemy [were] destroyed.

In severe clashes which occured in Jangal Bagh region, Parvan Province, among extremist groups today a number of rebels including their three ringleaders were killed and a number others injured.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reported: As a result of clashes took place between Golbuddin and his rival groups in Pashtun Zarghon District of Herat Province and around Peshawar city seven extremists were killed, and seven others wounded.

Also a 20-member armed opposition group gave up armed activities and came to the government side today in Balkh Province.

Besides, in a clearing operation carried out by the security forces, three ground-to-ground Sakker-30 rockets and five boxes of various kinds of bullets and ammunition placed around Kabul city by Pakistani backed extremists, were uncovered today.

Mujahidin Leader 'Abdul Hasan Interviewed

PM0208104689 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Jul 89 pp 34-35

[Unattributed interview with 'Abdul Razzaq Muhammad Hasan, "Qandahar front commander and hajj and awqaf minister in the Afghan mujahidin government;" date, place not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: In your capacity as military commander of the Qandahar region, what is the truth about the military situation there? And why has Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, still not been captured, even though it has been under mujahidin siege for more than 6 months?

Commander 'Abdul Razzaq: The actual military, security, social, and living conditions in the Qandahar region will please you, God willing. The mujahidin have long been in control of the province, and they have formed a unified front. They are bound by strong tribal ties and have elected a 33-member shura council which runs the city's affairs and enjoys the citizens' respect. It also handles military matters in the region in isolation from its members' party affiliations and loyalties. We are living a normal life in the province. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: I have heard from several political and military leaders that there is a shortage of ammunition. What has been the impact of that shortage on your current strategy?

Hasan: True, there is a shortage of ammunition which we are currently trying to redress. But it is not the only shortage: We need new weapons to combat the aircraft bombarding us at long distance, using the latest technological resources. As I have said, the rockets in our possession cannot reach them. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It has been reported that Najibullah has asked you to negotiate and offered you a senior post. Is this true?

Commander 'Abdul Razzaq: Yes, it is true. Najib sent me a personal message. And the former Russian commander sent me another message. The substance of both messages is that they are offering me the leadership of Qandahar, provided I do not attack them or advance toward any other region. Of course I refused to go to them, because we are not struggling for the sake of a position or a sectarian objective. We are struggling to promote God's word in our country. Their schemes are known: They want to sow the seeds of division among the field commanders so that when they finish with the neighboring areas they will come and massacre us. These are their schemes, which they used in the occupied Islamic republics. In a single day they killed hundreds of thousands in vast massacres, with the same method that they tried to use against us.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe it is possible to achieve a reconciliation and to form a coalition government with the ruling Afghan regime?

Commander 'Abdul Razzaq: It is absolutely unacceptable: How can we form a coalition government with those whose hands are stained with martyrs' blood, with those who exposed our country to the Russian forces' interference for over 10 years. Over 80 percent of our country has been destroyed. They fire over 2,000 tonnes of ammunition at us every day. The Russians supply their equipment and ammunition. They want to achieve their objectives, even if it means sacrificing Najibullah and bringing someone else into a coalition government. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Now that a U.S. ambassador has been appointed to make contacts with the mujahidin government, do you believe U.S. recognition is imminent?

Commander 'Abdul Razzaq: I personally do not expect so, and there is no justification for the delay in their diplomatic recognition of our government. It was they who made a big noise about the Russian forces' presence on our territory. But it seems that their present interests differ from their previous ones. The establishment of an Islamic rule in Afghanistan does not satisfy them. Nor does the existence of an agent government for the Russians in Kabul: Indeed this is not in line with their interests. It was on that basis that their strange position emerged: an ambassador to make contacts with the mujahidin government, but no recognition of that government!

AL-HAWADITH: Has their military aid to you been reduced?

Commander 'Abdul Razzaq: We started the jihad in Afghanistan with sticks, stones, and traditional light hand weapons. That was in the face of the strongest and fiercest enemy, equipped with every kind of advanced weaponry and equipment. I confirm to you and to the world that it was the Islamic faith which expelled the greatest material and military power from our Islamic territory. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Some observers see some coolness in your relations with Pakistan.

Commander 'Abdul Razzaq: No, that is untrue. This is because Pakistan is a state that has always backed us in our just battle. It defended the cause of truth, sheltered Afghan refugees, and condemned the Russian military action against our country. That fraternal state can in no way abandon us now, and there can be no coolness in our relations. The two countries have—and will always have, God willing—a single defense strategy.

AL-HAWADITH: What about your relations with the Palestinian state? It is said that Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] mediations with the Kabul government have ruined them. Is this true?

Commander 'Abdul Razzaq: It is known that differing in views does not harm friendship at all. And as you know, mediations can carry more than one meaning or viewpoint. But we have emphasized once again our firm position toward and support for the Muslim Palestinian people's jihad. We salute the stone-throwing children and believe that the Muslim Palestinian people have now chosen the right path, namely, the jihad through the intifadah [uprising] to liberate holy Jerusalem, the first qiblah, and the third holy place from the Zionist aggressors' claws. We bless that jihad and back it with all our strength. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Ershad Leaves Hospital 2 Aug, Resumes Activities

BK0208131889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1310 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 2 (AFP)—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad left a Dhaka military hospital Wednesday and resumed his functions after undergoing three days of treatment for throat complications, sources at the presidential house said.

The 59-year-old general visited some developments projects in the capital and presided over a special cabinet meeting, the sources said without elaborating.

Mr. Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup and is the country's longest serving president, was admitted to the combined military hospital at Dhaka Garrison Sunday and all official schedules were cancelled.

No official health bulletin was issued. A doctor at the hospital said the president wanted to leave Tuesday, but stayed another day on request to ensure "rest for his throat."

Minister Leaves for Bhutan To Discuss SAARC

BK0208155589 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud left Dhaka today for Thimpu as part of his consultations with SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries on the situation arising out of the postponement of the SAARC Council of Ministers meeting. He will discuss the issue with his Bhutanese counterpart and is also expected to call on the Bhutanese king.

Joint Agreement With Pakistan To Expand Trade

BK0108160089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Bangladesh and Pakistan have expressed firm determination to work for expanding and diversifying trade and economic cooperation between them for mutual benefit. This was contained in the agreed minutes signed in Dhaka today on conclusion of the 3-day meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic

Commission [JEC]. The two sides have decided to set up two follow-up committees—one each in Dhaka and Islamabad—to pursue the implementation of the decision. It also agreed that the joint committee on trade will hold meetings at regular intervals.

While expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the Dhaka meeting, both sides agreed to have long-term agreement for the sale of jute to Pakistan by Bangladesh and procurement of cotton by Bangladesh from Pakistan. They also agreed to encourage joint ventures in the medium- and large-scale industrial sectors. They also decided to reexamine and reconsider the single-country licensing system for tea and its long-term arrangement for export and to have a joint chamber meeting in Karachi by next December. Pakistan will organize a single-country exhibition in Dhaka in November this year.

The JEC meeting stressed the need to develop complementary telephone equipment and machinery between them and to implement the code of conduct between the two national shipping corporations. It further agreed to examine the possibility of concluding a scientific and technological cooperation agreement.

The duration of the JEC, formed in 1979, has been extended for a period of another 5 years. The next session of the JEC will be held in Pakistan at a mutually convenient time. Commerce Minister M.A. Sattar led the Bangladeshi delegation at the JEC meeting, while the Pakistani side was headed by Minister of State for Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Development Ehsanul Haq Piracha.

India

Sri Lanka's Perumal Leaves for Delhi To Join Talks

BK0208125789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The high-level Indian and Sri Lankan delegations are continuing talks in New Delhi on implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement for the 5th day today. An official spokesman told newsmen a short while ago that the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, along with the minister for higher education, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today and had a 2-hour discussion on the various issues of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The spokesman said the Sri Lankan minister also met the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and had another round of detailed discussions.

In a new development, the chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has left Colombo for New Delhi to take part in the talks being held in the capital. Mr Perumal is accompanied by the transport minister, Mr Abu Yusuf, and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] member of Parliament, Mr Premachandran. The chief minister is coming to Delhi at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, has said that many of the country's recent problems could have been avoided had the government shown, what she called, greater thought and diplomacy. In a statement issued in Colombo, she criticized the Sri Lankan Government for pushing the country to a point of territorial disintegration and a major civil war. Mrs Bandaranaike said Sri Lanka is going through a most critical phase in its history and called for nonviolence to resolve the problem.

Talks End Without Agreement

BK0308084489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 3 (AFP)—India and Sri Lanka Thursday concluded crucial talks on the withdrawal of some 45,000 Indian troops from the island nation but without reaching any final agreement.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said he would present the conclusions reached by the two parties here to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa. "I am not altogether satisfied with the talks," Mr. Wijeratne told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The foreign minister said New Delhi has given a "tentative" time-frame for the withdrawal of the Indian peacekeeping force (IPKF) from Sri Lanka but did not disclose details of the crucial pullout schedule.

He said the 10-strong Sri Lanka delegation and the Indian side have jointly prepared "position papers" of the six days of talks here, adding that he would be submitting them to his president in Colombo for a decision.

Mr. Wijeratne refused to comment on the contentious issue of devolution of political powers to Sri Lanka's minority Tamil population, living mostly in the island's north and east, but said the issue was also in the papers he would be carrying back to Colombo Friday.

Indian officials were not immediately available for comments on the talks.

The talks ended one day after Mr. Wijeratne met Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for the third time.

Rao Says Nepal Proposes Changes to Talks Agenda

BK0208095589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The government hopes that a comprehensive and productive dialogue will soon be initiated between India and Nepal to sort out the trade and transit issues. The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, told

this to the Rajya Sabha in a written reply today. He said India has taken the initiative by proposing a detailed agenda covering all issues of mutual concern. It has sought frank and candid talks with the Nepalese Government to resolve the issues. The minister said the Nepalese side, in response, has proposed certain amendments to the agenda which are being examined.

Assesses Negotiations

BK0308091589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] India is examining some amendments suggested by Nepal to a comprehensive agenda proposed by New Delhi in June this year covering all issues of mutual concern. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in the Lok Sabha today during the question hour. He expressed the hope that the productive negotiations between the two countries can begin at an early date.

Answering supplementaries, Mr Rao said India has proposed a review of the working of the trade and transit treaty since its working has been one sided. Mr Narasimha Rao said there had been a serious erosion of the provisions of the treaty by Nepal during the last several years.

Replying to a question, he said even under the present situation, Nepal is being provided with adequate transit arrangements for its import from third country much in excess of what is called for under the international law. He said in the absence of a trade treaty, the Indo-Nepal trade is being carried on in accordance with the normal export-import policies of the two countries.

Replying to another question, Mr Rao said the Government of Nepal has not formally communicated any desire to negotiate a revision of the 1950 Indo-Nepal treaty.

The Rajya Sabha was told today that coordination committees have been set up by the state governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal for concerted action against smuggling of petroleum products from India to Nepal. The minister of state for finance, Mr Ajit Panja said the anti-smuggling machinery on the Indo-Nepal border has been strengthened.

Official Denies Interruption of Nepal's Oil Supply

BK0108011889 Hong Kong AFP in English 2032 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Calcutta, India, July 31 (AFP)—India has not closed the port in Calcutta and the supply of oil to Nepal was uninterrupted, an official said Monday [31 July].

The state-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) had previously threatened to curb its operations in the Budge Budge area south of Calcutta because of suspected large-scale smuggling of petroleum products from the firm's stores, an IOC official said.

He said the area had been closed for three days in the first week of July but since then has been functioning normally under tight security.

New Delhi had directed the IOC not to stop the supply of oil to Nepal, the official said. He could not say how much oil was being supplied to Nepal daily. [passage omitted]

(On Monday, Nepalese officials continued to maintain that the dock at Budge Budge remained closed, saying it constituted an "economic war" by New Delhi against Nepal.

(The officials said they were waiting for a reply from Calcutta port authorities on a Nepalese request to use at least one jetty at the dock to unload oil products imported from Singapore and Gulf countries.

(The official English-language newspaper THE RISING NEPAL said, "Since closing down of one of the docks of the Calcutta Port ostensibly for repair involves... transit traffic of Nepal for which no other viable alternative exists, the central government in New Delhi cannot feign ignorance of the implications of the Calcutta port trust move and be silent over it.") [passage omitted]

Sikh Militants Kill Communist Leader in Punjab

BK0208111589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 2 (AFP)—Sikh separatists killed a communist leader, a policeman and a driver while security forces shot dead a suspected militant in northern Punjab State, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Wednesday.

Sikh assassins burst into the house of communist Chain Singh late Tuesday in Amritsar City and shot him dead, PTI said. Mr. Singh was a leader of the Amritsar branch of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Sikh militants have killed several communists in Punjab in the past because of their opposition to the Sikh campaign for an independent homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) in the border state.

Sikh separatists ambushed a private van and shot dead the driver late Tuesday near Hargobindpur town. A police constable was killed when he drew fire from the ambushers in the ensuing gunbattle.

Punjab police shot dead a suspected Sikh militant in Jandiala County during a gunbattle, pushing the year's death toll in separtist linked violence in the state to at least 830.

Minister on Pakistani Weapons Buildup, U.S. Aid
BK0308075989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has expressed concern over the weapon-oriented nuclear program and ongoing military buildup of some of the neighbors in the region. Inaugurating a defense quality conference in New Delhi today, Mr Pant said the United States—despite its declared policy of not providing assistance to nuclear weapon states—remains apparently committed to its massive economic and military aid to Pakistan for the coming years. He said apart from acquiring high technology weapon systems from Washington and other Western countries, Pakistan is upgrading its existing weaponry in collaboration with the United States, China, and other countries.

The defense minister has urged for self-reliance in the field of weapons and equipment to insure national security at all times. He asked the defense director general of quality assurance, the defense research and development organization, and other production agencies to work in close coordination for achieving this objective.

Mr Pant said the coming years would see the induction of new missiles, electronic warfare equipment, and radars having a high degree of commonality between the Army, Navy, and the Air Force. This calls for a special thrust to insure standardization. He said there is good scope for having an integrated organization to achieve a unified approach on quality. Mr Pant announced that a high-powered committee has been appointed to examine these aspects and make suitable recommendations.

The minister of state for defense production, Mr D.L. Baitha, in his keynote address asked the defense public sector undertaking and the ordnance factory board to demonstrate a model which the civil industry can emulate.

The 3-day conference is being attended by the three service chiefs, the scientific adviser to Defense Ministry, Dr V.S. Arunachalam, the defense secretary, and other senior officers. The conference will discuss the application of new concepts and products to meet the new challenges in the sophisticated field of quality assurance.

Daily Assesses Pakistan's Military Buildup
BK3107104989 Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Jul 89 p 4

[Article by Tapan Das: "Pak Navy: Quest for Qualitative Advantage"]

[Text] There were many in India and elsewhere, who for quite valid reasons characterised some of the recent candid statements on Afghanistan and Indo-Pak relations by Pakistani Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto as harbingers of a refreshing outlook and new thinking in Islamabad. It was even held by a few that a turnabout or a radical shift in Pakistan's Afghan policy would as a natural corollary usher in a gradual change in Islamabad's feverish military buildup plans.

Some had thought that with the total withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva Accord deadline and removal of the alleged Soviet threat Islamabad will be prompted to open a new chapter in its relations with its immediate neighbours.

However, the continued spurt in the influx of sophisticated and lethal weaponry into Pakistan's arsenal must rule out the possibility of any tangible changes in either Islamabad's or its patrons' policies vis-a-vis Afghanistan or arms race spiral in the Indian sub-continent in the near future. Not only the increased supply of F-16s and other hardwares following Ms Bhutto's first visit to the U.S. but also the induction of more deadly naval weaponry have belied the hopes that were rekindled in the wake of her recent utterances.

While the overall beefing up of the Pakistani army should rouse legitimate concern in all the neighbouring capitals, the naval buildup merits special attention as this directly affects none but India's security interests. It cannot be fortuitous that amidst the mounting campaign in recent weeks aimed at projecting India as a regional superpower or a bully with aggress designs against a "militarily weak" Pakistan, there h. been supplies of several anti-submarine helicopters, frigates, destroyers, torpedo boats, maritime reconnaissance aircraft, minesweepers, harpoon anti-shipping missiles, etc by the U.S., U.K., France, China and a few other countries.

Reports published in JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY and other authoritative journals recently say that as part of its strategy to build a "comprehensive military infrastructure" and enable the Pak navy to play a 'crucial support role", that country was favoured with many firsts in recent months.

Not only has the Pak navy received more than a dozen American frigates fitted with most modern fire control radar and long-range missiles. While Britain has supplied several Type-23 frigates, the JANE'S WEEKLY informed that France as well as China would soon provide Pakistan with several Agosta and Romeod class submarines with mine counter-measure vessels.

Pakistan is also scheduled to receive from the U.S. three P3C Orion aircraft. These would enhance Pakistan's maritime surveillance capability. Besides, their slated equipping with harpoon anti-shipping missiles would threaten Indian naval ships' operation in the Indian Ocean. Also, no less grave a threat is that many of India's offshore and onshore installations would come within the hitting range of these missiles.

Indian defence experts point out that the Pak navy has acquired long-range reconnaissance aircraft fitted with missiles which have a range of 50 miles and more. A call to the Indian shore-based fighter aircraft to combat these in an eventuality would be futile as they would arrive too late, they note.

Some may wonder if the renewed vigour in the naval buildup had been provoked by any recent developments. Informed sources, however, have not been taken by surprise as this is not a sudden development. The nature of supplies confirm earlier apprehensions that the Pak naval buildup has had long-term goals. It has been going on for some years. It was never merely designed to meet the contingency of the Afgham situation. As many would recall, a few Pakistani as well as American officials had been asserting that the Pak-U.S. strategic relationship would continue irrespective of Afghan developments.

A U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Peck said in April last year: "We have never suggested that the United States would terminate its security assistance relationship with Pakistan when Soviet occupation of Afghanistan ended. Pakistan has a right to secure defence articles from external sources, just as does India".

Of course, Washington has been trying hard to disabuse New Delhi's minds by saying that American weapons were not meant to be used by Pakistan against India, and that a militarily-strong Pakistan would be in a better position to safeguard the U.S.' "vital interests" in the region.

It is another matter that New Delhi has not been taken in by such mealy-mouthed phrases and specious arguments. Many in India rightly recall late V.K. Krishna Menon's [former Indian defense minister] famous retort that there were no guns in the world which fired in only one direction.

But neither Washington nor its friend-client has had any use for such reproaches. While the late Pakistani President Ziaul Haq claimed that Pakistan is the "linchpin", a top U.S. official stated that Pakistan's defence was augmented keeping in view that it was ideally suited to carry out plans of Central Command (CENTCOM) and the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF).

As is well known, Pakistan has been assigned a key role to serve as the bridgehead for the RDF in case it is airlifted from the US bases on the Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean and in the Philippines to the Gulf area. Significantly also, Karachi has, of late, become an important centre for coordinating CENTCOM-RDF activities. Besides, military facilities for the use of RDF have been provided at Jiwini Port, Gwini, Ormarha, Gwadar, Koh-Maran and Mehdi-Koh situated in Baluchistan. Pakistan's strategic commnications system has also been connected with the CENTCOM-RDF communications network.

How deeply has Pakistan committed itself to the execution of the U.S.' grandiose plans and designs is clear from an official document of the CENTCOM. A catalogue of "Allied and Friendly Forces" available to the CENTCOM in times of need included Pakistan's 488,000-strong army, 1600 tanks, 140 fighter aircraft and dozens of naval vessels.

Incidentally, the recent U.S. announcement to keep a "low profile" in the Indian Ocean region (the main area of RDF-CENTCOM operations) has more to do with the Pentagon's growing confidence in Pakistan's capability to play the assigned role in the area than with Washington's desire to scale down its "policing operations".

In this context, it is pertinent to note that outlining America's strategy to ensure for the U.S. economy an uninterrupted growth, top experts called upon the policy-makers to guarantee political stability of the nations supplying cheap raw materials to the US and its allies. They also urged that the U.S. and its partners must be able to police the sea lanes over which American exports and imports must flow. And, naval presence, both overt and covert, can be one of the most useful means to facilitate realisation of that objective, they argued.

None should be oblivious of the fact that the U.S., especially the Pentagon, is dependent on the Indian Ocean region for supply of as many as 50 types of highly valuable raw materials such as manganese, cobalt, titanium, chromium, platinum, tin, nickel, tungsten, iron, lead, copper and others. Without a regular supply of these, the U.S. defence industry would surely face a severe crisis and would eventually lose the lucrative weapons export business. Moreover, about 25 percent of all oil used by the U.S. comes from the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf regions.

If all this would explain the underlying reasons for the U.S.' special care in Pakistan's military buildup, the sinister implications that a coordinated U.S.-Pak naval operation may have for countries like India become quite apparent from the following. In February last, Karachi was witness to an awesome display of naval exercises by the U.S.' 7th Fleet. The exercise included dropping of bombs, breaking of the sound barrier, dropping of flares by F-16s to detect heat-seeking missiles in the sea.

Two More Opposition Members of Parliament Resign

BK0208145889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Two more opposition members resigned from the Lok Sabha today [to protest the Bofors gun deal]. The deputy speaker, Mr Thambi Durai, informed the house of acceptance of the resignation by the speaker. The Congress-I parliamentary secretary, Mr P.N. Sukul, has strongly refuted the speculated report in a certain section of the press that more members may resign from the

party [over the Bofors gun deal]. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said these publications are nothing but a deplorable attempt of the opposition to create confusion in the country.

Parliamentarian Fired for Joining Opposition Front
BK2807085689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has been disqualified from the membership of the Rajya Sabha. Announcing this decision, the chairman, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, ordered that Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, ceases to be a member of the house with immediate effect for voluntarily giving up his membership of Congress-I, his original political party on whose candidature he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir in 1986. Dr Sharma said Mufti Mohammad Sayeed officially conveyed in March last that he has severed political links with the Congress-I and has become a member of the Janata Dal.

Opposition Member Accused of Backing Separatists
BK2607093189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was briefly adjourned during the zero hour today following uproarious scenes over activities of the opposition member, Mr Ram Jethmalani. Immediately after the question time, several ruling party members were on their feet raising the matter as reported in a section of the press. They accused Mr Jethmalani of supporting secessionist forces and demanded his expulsion from the house. The deputy chairman, Dr Najma Heptulla, asked the members to maintain decorum and said discussion on any issue can only take place with the permission of the chairman. As she wanted the normal business to resume, ruling party members kept pressing their demand. Opposition members contested this and said they were prepared for a discussion if a notice is given. Mr Jethmalani was seen standing and defending himself. However, nothing could be heard in the din. As repeated appeals by the chair had no effect, Dr Heptulla adjourned the house for 10 minutes and invited members to her chamber to sort out the issue. When the house reassembled, there were some heated exchanges over remarks made by a Congress-I member against Mr Jethmalani. The deputy chairman said she will expunge the remarks.

In the Lok Sabha also, some ruling party members demanded a statement from the government on the alleged anti-Indian activities of Mr Ram Jethmalani in the United States. The matter was raised during the zero hour. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, pointed out that Mr Jethmalani is a member of the Rajya Sabha and it is for that house to take up the matter.

Opposition Behavior, Resignations Criticized
BK2807130489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Congress-I Working Committee has described the behavior of the opposition in parliament as irresponsible, saying it resulted in a serious erosion of the very basis of parliamentary democracy. In a resolution adopted at its extended meeting in New Delhi, the committee described as political desperation the opposition's move to obstruct the proceedings of parliament and of resigning their seats from the Lok Sabha. Their running away from the house is a violation of the trust reposed by the people who elected them. The resolution said the Congress-I is determined to meet the challenges—both internal and external—and will not run away from them.

USSR Offers Credit for Power Stations, Lines
BK2707011489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] The Soviet Union has offered a credit of 1,850 crore rupees for establishing power stations and transmission lines in India. This was disclosed by the visiting Soviet deputy minister for foreign economic relations, Mr V.F. Mordvinov, in New Delhi today. The Soviet minister met the finance minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, and held talks. Both the leaders reviewed the progress made in the expansion of trade between the two countries. They also discussed the possibilities of increasing exports of consumer goods from India.

Taxation Agreement Signed With GDR in New Delhi
BK2707052389 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] India and the German Democratic Republic have agreed to [word indistinct] the avoidance of double taxation relating to taxes on income and capital. Under the agreement, business profit of an enterprise of one country will be taxable in the other, only if it maintains a permanent establishment in that country.

The agreement was signed in New Delhi today by the ambassador of the GDR, Mr Wolfgang (Gabaski), and the joint secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Mr P.K. Appachoo.

The agreement also provides for tax exemption to aircraft companies, shipping, and technical services. The move is expected to lead to a greater flow of technology and capital in essential areas.

Petroleum Minister Views Oil Production, Demand
BK3107092989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The crude oil demand in the country is about 50 million tons as against the indigenous production of 34 million tons at present. Giving this information in the

Rajya Sabha today, the petroleum and natural gas minister, Mr Brahm Dutt, said the shortfall in supply is being met through imports. Steps have also been taken to increase indigenous crude supply through intensifying exploration efforts.

Computerization Plans, Electronics Exports Noted

BK3107140789 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 July 89 p 11

[Editorial "Software State"]

[Text] Unlike the United States where every walk of life has in some way been touched by computers, India's record in this field is fairly modest. But one area where the Indian enterprise is catching up pretty fast is in the field of software or computer programming with which even the most sophisticated computer would be lifeless. Of the Rs [rupees] 520 crore electronics exports achieved last year, software accounted for Rs 115 crore. Indian software computer companies have set their export target at Rs 1500 crore by 1995. It is no doubt ambitious but not impossible to achieve given the new tie-ups with foreign collaborators for upgrading the technology, and the availability of trained manpower. The importance of rapid computerisation for expediting overall development of the country cannot be gainsaid. A major computerisation programe under way by the National Informatics Centre is to connect all district headquarters through a computer network. the idea is to link all 500 district headquarters through a satellite channel to Pune, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and then to New Delhi. These district level computers with local area networks are meant to provide up-to-date date base on agriculture, education, health, housing, water resources and many other fields.

The software programming that will be needed to meet this ambitious programme cannot but be indigenous and will be a real challenge to our computer programmers. This will necessarily entail adaption to the latest (four generation) computers, the hardware component of which will have to be imported. But since the accent of most of the private and public sector companies is to get into collaboration agreements with well-known foreign names and seek technology transfer, both for home consumption and exports, the hardware component will gradually be Indianised. With the revolution in microprocessors, memories, data networks and digital communication, there will soon come a time, when as in the US, computers will touch every field of human activity in India. While hardware designers are racing to build more advanced supercomputers, software computer experts are broadening their horizons to include every facet of human activity. These include medicine, astrophysics, engineering, architecture, mathematics, publishing, weather prediction, simulating nuclear explosions, etc. India can achieve more in the field.

Narora Atomic Power Station Unit Synchronized

BK0108015489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The first unit of the Narora atomic power station has been synchronized with the northern grid. A press release issued in Bombay today says that the synchronization became successful in the early hours of Saturday [29 July]. The plant is located on the banks of the Ganges downstream of Narora barrage in Uttar Pradesh. Built at a cost of 532 crore rupees, this power station consists of two pressurized heavy water reactors of 235 megawatt capacity each. It uses natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator and coolant. The Narora design incorporates state of the art features to achieve safe and reliable operation. It is specially designed to withstand the seismic conditions of the site. Any discharges from the atomic power station will comply with internationally laid down limits.

Minister Views TV, Radio Network Expansion Plan

BK3107032689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, says eight new low-power Doordarshan [television] transmitters will be set up in Rajasthan this year. Talking to newsmen in Jalore, Mr Bhagat says the target is to raise the radio broadcast to 24 hours and Doordarshan telecast to 18 hours daily. He said the number of programs production centers will go up to 49 from the present 19 during the 8th 5-year plan.

Low-Power Transmitter Inaugurated

BK0108021689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] A low-power transmitter of Doordarshan [television] became operational in Jalor, Rajasthan yesterday. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, activated the transmitter by pressing a button. The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, was also present on the occasion.

45 New FM Radio Stations Planned for Mar 1990

BK2807090989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] All India Radio proposes to set up 45 new frequency modulated [FM] radio stations by March next year. The main advantage in this system of broadcast is that it gives better reception. The Rajya Sabha was informed in a written reply today that 35 medium wave transmitters and 16 short wave transmitters at existing centers are being upgraded.

Iran

Khamene'i Confirms Hashemi-Rafsanjani President

LD0308080789 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was officially sworn in as Iran's fourth president Thursday in a ceremony attended by the nation's top leaders. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iran's first president after the death of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, was confirmed by leader and outgoing President Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

The former Majlis speaker has put economic issues on top of his agenda, pledging to cut the government's role in the flagging economy, open the doors for greater private investment.

He has also promised to better and expand Iran's foreign relations.

Confirming the new president, leader Khamene'i urged Hashemi-Rafsanjani to solve the nation's problems, most important of all the hardship facing the poor, by using new powers granted to the president.

"I confirm the people's vote to the honorable Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani... knowing the stature and rank of this sincere follower of the imam, this prominent personality of the Islamic Republic and its strong and expressive arm and voice," Khamene'i said in a statement.

The statement was read by the late imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, at Jamaran Mosque, where two previous president's had their election ratified.

Highest ranking civilian and military officials, religious leaders from Qom, and members of the press had gathered at the mosque for the ceremony Thursday morning.

"This confirmation is until he (Hashemi-Rafsanjani) continues on the same straight and shiny path in defence of pure Mohammadan Islam and strives for complete realization of Koranic rule, implementation of shari'a,... and uprooting poverty and establishing social justice," the leader said.

He stressed that the president must bear in mind "Islam's dignity and greatness and the Islamic Republic's political, economic and social independence" in foreign policy matters.

The ayatollah was selected leader a day after Imam Khomeyni passed away on June 3. His second four-year term as president came to an end Thursday, two months earlier, to allow the new administration to start work sooner.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who turns 55 on August 25, was voted president by a massive majority, winning more than 15.5 million votes (94.5 percent) on July 28. On the same day the 97 percent of people approved constitutional reforms which give greater authority to the president at the expense of the prime minister whose post has been abolished.

The daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Thursday described the swearing ceremony as a great event in the history of the Iranian people while the daily ABRAR said it heralded a new era for the Islamic Republic. "The people take (Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election) as a good omen and hope to see positive developments, solidarity and the start of a constructive age in the coming days," ABRAR commented.

The ceremony at Jamaran Mosque was similar to those conducted by the late imam in 1981 and 1985, for the late President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and President Khamene'i. Only this time Ayatollah Khamene'i was playing the leading role.

In his statement, leader Khamene'i paid a glowing tribute to the former Majlis speaker whom he has worked closely with since the early days of the Islamic movement against the monarchy in the 1960s. He described the former Majlis speaker as a man who had made sacrifices in God's path and who had always been a trusted aide to the late imam, and favored by the people.

"I think God the with will of [as received] our dear people, this heavy divine responsibility has rested on the able shoulders of a great man from among Islam's children and the followers of the glorious imam," he said. "(Hashemi-Rafsanjani is a) mujahid, an Islamic scholar, a wise politician and a sincere manager, aware of the problems."

The ceremony was watched by senior religious leaders grand ayatollahs Mohammad 'Ali Araki, Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, Shahoboddin Marashi Najafi.

Other senior officials were also present including Prime Minister Hoseyn [Musavi] and his cabinet members, Chief Justice 'Abdol Karim Musavi-Ardabili, commanders of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards and members of the Council of Guardians.

TEHRAN TIMES Cited on 'Hostage Crisis'

LD0308080189 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Countries with interest are prepared to help gain the release of hostages in Lebanon only if honesty prevails in working out a deal, an Iranian daily said. But English-language TEHRAN TIMES stressed that the hostage crisis would not see a final end until Israel and the West put an end to their crimes against in Lebanon. [sentence as received]

The paper's [as received] reminded that the French succeeded in winning the freedom of their hostages in Beirut because they made an honorable deal.

"If the negotiations and contacts are based on the same principle of honesty then the countries with interest in Lebanon are ready to use their good offices for the release of the captives," it said.

"What the French succeeded with then was a logical and acceptable procedure for gaining the release of all hostages, given that the negotiations were based on honesty and sincerity."

The paper said the Israeli abduction of Lebanese prayer leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd last Friday was aimed at reopening old wounds between the Amal and Hizbollah Shia militias.

The shaykh lived in an area controlled mainly by Amal forces and the Israeli action could have suggested their cooperation with the Zionist forces in the eyes of Hizbollah, it said.

Tel Aviv had also hoped to swap Israeli and Western captives with Muslim hostages.

"What we have observed over the last few days, however, is failure for Israel in both aspects of their action," the TEHRAN TIMES said.

"Israel recognizes its miscalculations and now and, [as received] thus is trying to give a different picture... they are insinuating that it is the Lebanese groups that are not ready to make a deal and to free the hostages and that some 'risk' might be necessary."

The paper stressed that in the long run the hostage crisis would not be resolved until Israel and the West stopped terrorizing the people of Lebanon.

"The officials of the Islamic Republic have repeatedly condemned kidnapping and acts of terrorism in every form and have suggested peaceful approaches to stop such brutalities.

"Lebanon's kidnapping incident is a result of joint U.S.-Israel crime and Iran is a victim to it.

"Therefore no bright prospects can be expected for putting an end to this problem and unless Zionists and imperialists seek ways to stop their crimes and oppression."

UN Urged To Stop Israeli 'State Terrorism'

LD0208181889 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Athens, Aug 2, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Athens Habibullah Biazar in a Greek television interview Tuesday night [1 August] said only Israel was responsible for abductions, hostage taking and murders in Lebanon.

Israeli commandos kidnapped Muslim leader 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two of his aides and killed his bodyguard after raiding his home in south Lebanon last week. The three men are being held hostage in Israel.

Biazar called on the U.N. to undertake steps to stop Israel's state terrorism. He said Iran did not know who were the kidnappers of foreign hostages in Lebanon nor their whereabouts and emphasized that Tehran condemns killing of innocent people.

The representative of the Zionist state in Athens Moshe Gilboea was also interviewed by the Greek television. He said Israel acted in order to combat international terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Greek Government has increased security measures at the country's airports and harbours and other sensitive installations following recent developments in Lebanon linked with the kidnapping of Shzykh 'Ubayd by Israelis.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Addresses Clergy on Role

LD0208150289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to clergy as month of Muharram approaches; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] In this year's Muharram [first month of Muslim year, 4 Aug] the clergy can be said to have a heavier responsibility than previous years. First, this year there is the grief due to the loss of our great imam, a grief which is still fresh. The Islamic publicity organs of the country should not let the memory of the imam wither away, even slightly; not that it ever will. [passage omitted] Second, this year, in view of the fact that we have before us a new phase in the country's administration, we know that the expectations are high. Everyone was asked the question: What do you expect from the future president? With that, the following question should also have been asked: What help and assistance are you going to give the new administration and the new president? Expectations may be in place, but duties and obligations should come next to expectations, because the system is a popular one, which means not only the will of the people but their actions for the consolidation of the system. The people must provide help, although the administrative tools are in the hands of the country's executive officials. [passage omitted]

This is a point that you gentlemen should tell people in religious gatherings and assemblies. What you say to the people from your mosque's tribune is different to what is conveyed to people from the radio, even if you speak them yourself. I have repeatedly said that eye-to-eye contact and proximity of senses and feelings between the speaker and the listener possesses the type of influence which cannot be found in messages conveyed from a

distance. We, the clergy, must appreciate that. I have repeatedly said that this is an advantage which belongs to us, the clergy. Eye-to-eye contact with people and communication with them is an advantage that we have. They feel our presence and not merely our voice and sound waves. This has a double effect. The people, therefore, should be reminded about their fundamental duties in this new phase, in which we vest a great deal of hope. This is necessary in order to fulfill those hopes and expectations.

The other point which needs attention in such gatherings and assemblies is the issue of unity, meaning unity of expression among people. During the last 2 months or so, we have seen that the unity among the people created such a miraculous effect on world politics and international atmosphere. Once again, after 10 years, we have felt that miracle. When people, with a singular will and voice, say something, or do something, or choose a path, the world holds its breath, glaring in anticipation. The strong powers become small and insignificant, ceasing to function. What has been said about the greedy expectations of the enemy in the post-imam era was no joke. It was very serious. For years they had been waiting for that hour, while we had done no planning for such a time, only God can testify. [passage omitted]

Now that God has bestowed on us the blessing of unity, we must try to preserve it. First, religious orators should not speak a word which may be related to any difference or discord. No excuse can justify us speaking about something which may create some sort of difference among the people, be it a political or religious subject, or matters pertaining to administration, government, state of being the source of emulation [marja'iyat], clergy, leadership, or anything else for that matter. [passage omitted]

In these religious meetings and gatherings, the people should also be reminded that today, thanks be to God, from a political point of view, we are in a position of strength and our enemy, namely world arrogance, is in a reactive position. Nevertheless, this does not mean that the enemies' deceptions and conspiracies have come to an end. Never will the Jews or the Christians be satisfied with Thee, unless thou follow their form of religion. [Koranic verse] Of course, this verse is followed by: The guidance of God is the only guidance. The faction of truth will not follow the wishes of the enemies. However, we should understand the enemy's nature. We should not neglect the enemy's deceit even for a moment. This is what we should tell the people.

Today we are in a position of strength. The enemy, world arrogance, is in a reactive mood. In the course of this period, world arrogance has always made threats, open or implied, direct or indirect, against the revolution and the order of the Islamic Republic. The nation which will under no circumstances be influenced by the enemy's threats is the nation which has contacts with God and which regards itself as dependent upon God. This is our Muslim nation. Today the embodiment of this in a political and collective context is the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian nation. Therefore, under no circumstances will we be frightened by enemy threats. We are not afraid of any enemy. We are not afraid of any power in the world, under any circumstances. Our enemies have demonstrated to us in practice that they are not capable of seriously and decisively delivering blows to us, because they did everything they could in the past 10 years.

And today, thanks be to God, we are stronger than ever. We are more stable. Within ourselves we are more hopeful. Today the future for us is brighter than ever. We are not frightened of the enemy. The enemy is not capable of delivering blows to us. However, all these are dependent on the maintenance of our vigilance and presence, the presence of every member of the society on the scene.

The people should not feel now that, thanks be to God, everything is now over and everyone can go to see to his own work. No, we should not leave the scene. This nation should not forget for a moment its support for the order and the officials of the system, and the executives and managers of the country. Of course, the executives and the managers also have many responsibilities toward this nation, which should also be mentioned and discussed. [passage omitted]

If the clergy today does something which may be interpreted as misuse of power, if a member of the clergy does something which shows something contradictory to the faith and piety which people expect from us and because of which they have given us their confidence, the damage will be irreparable. Therefore, our circumstances today are indeed exceptional, meaning that they differ to what they were during the prerevolutionary era. Even during that era if a member of clergy did something wrong, even if by rumor, the whole clergy community was affected. Today, however, as the system is Islamic and the clergy are the manifestations of Islam, the ill-effects will not only damage the clergy community, but it will damage Islam. A damage which cannot be put right for a long time. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Invited To Visit India

LD0308083589 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—President-elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been invited by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to visit New Delhi.

Visiting Deputy Finance Minister G.K. Arora conveyed the invitation in a meeting with Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday [2 August]. The Indian official is here to settle a dispute over an Iranian loan to India's steel organization and purchase of iron ore from India's Kudremukh. He briefed the president-elect on the issue and progress made.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani accepting the invitation to visit India expressed satisfaction with progress made over the dispute and described it as a measure towards further strengthening of Tehran-New Delhi ties. He said in view of the large Muslim population in India it was necessary to expand bilateral relations.

Views were also exchanged on regional issues including the Afghan crisis.

Indian Envoy Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani
NC0308071189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Arora, secretary in the Indian Ministry of Finance and special emissary of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, met with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday evening. He gave him Mr Gandhi's congratulations on his election as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and invited him to visit India.

At this meeting the Indian prime minister's special envoy and Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed the resolution of difficulties in connection with the advance of loans to the Indian steel organization and the purchase of iron ore from the (Kudermikh) company by the national Iranian steel organization. While accepting Mr Gandhi's invitation to visit India and conveying his warmest salutations to the Indian prime minister, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the presence of Muslims in India and welcomed the resolution of financial problems between the two countries, which he deemed a step toward the greater expansion of mutual relations.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave the Indian prime minister's special envoy a verbal message for Gandhi regarding the problems and difficulties of the region, including the Afghanistan issue.

Syrian President Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani
LD0208222989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a message congratulating Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election, by a decisive majority of the Muslim Iranian nation, as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. He wished the Iranian nation's president-elect success, saying:

I am certain that the present cooperation and friendly relations between the Arab Republic of Syria and the IRI will be directed toward the mutual interests of the two nations, the strengthening of the anti-Zionist struggle in all its forms and shapes, as well as toward defending the ideals and freedom, and the further strengthening of the struggling nations.

Meshkini Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani
LD0208104589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Ayatollah Meshkini, the president of the Council of Experts and the president of the board of trustees of the International Center for Islamic Sciences has sent a cable addressed to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the elected president of the Iranian nation, expressing congratulations on his election and expressing the wish that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani will translate into action in the best possible way the lofty aspirations of the exhalted late leader of the revolution.

The cable states: Your Excellency's praiseworthy election by the brave Iranian nation is an indication of their appreciation of a personality who has employed all his powers to struggle to bring to fruition the objectives of the leader of the Islamic ummah, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be in God's paradise. [passage omitted]

We hope that under the benefits of the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his blessing continue, and your presidency our sacred revolution will continue its path in the world as a movement gaining momentum to make it possible for the lofty aspirations of our late leader to be implemented.

Bahonar Refutes Reports on Secret Talks With U.S.
NC0208111589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] A senior parliamentarian yesterday scoffed at the report that Iran and the United States have held talks for the normalization of bilateral relations.

Mohammad Reza Bahonar talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said, "Such reports are a pack of lies and there is no truth in it."

Bahonar, Majlis deputy from Tehran was commenting on a report of Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH which said that Iran and the United States have held two rounds of secret talks.

The Majlis deputy who is also member of Majlis Labor and Welfare Commission said, "There is no change in Iran's 'neither East nor West' policy and we will follow the path shown by our leader late Imam Khomeyni.

"It does not mean that there is no possibility for resumption of Iran-U.S. ties at all but it will not be the same as it used to be in the previous regime in Iran," he said, adding Iran now has its own terms and conditions which should be met before taking even a single step for the normalization of Tehran-Washington relations.

Going into details Bahonar said that the terms for the resumption of ties include "respect for mutual interests and non-interference into each other's internal affairs."

He said for that the United States has to give up its hegemoistic policies.

"But," he said, "right now we do not see such a sign, so the question of talks with the United States does not even arise."

Bahonar said that the West always made wrong calculations about Iran and recently it was proved beyond doubt that the Western pundits were wrong while forecasting about Iran after the sad demise of Imam Khomeyni.

"You see the nation is still treading the path shown by the Imam and it will continue to do so in future too."

Commenting on the July 28 presidential election Bahonar said that it can be said beyond doubt that Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will win the election.

"Of course we should not expect miracles," he said, and pointed out that "the capability and vast experiences Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has in his store we can expect better in future."

He said that the revised Constitution provides better chances to Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Editorial Discusses Amal-Hizballah Relations

NC0208114589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial entitled "A Crucial Move Towards Lebanese Unity"]

[Text] Two major Muslim Lebanese revolutionary groups—the Amal and Hizballah—have announced a normalization of their bilateral relations by issuing a joint statement which has been released in Tehran.

The joint statement spells out the manner in which they will join in their fight against the Zionist occupation forces and mercenary allies such as Michel 'Awn in Lebanon. It is common knowledge now that the Zionist forces using the 'Awn clique and the Iraqi regime are a threat to the Lebanese Muslim unity in this country. The groups in their statement vowed to fight them until a popular regime comes to power.

In the statement the two sides have also affirmed their support for a just political system based on equality and dignified co-existence among all members of the Lebanese nation.

The five-point statement is not the first of its kind. Three years ago when tensions between the two groups were at their height, they calmed down to sign a series of agreements which obviously have not held. But this five-point agreement can have a significance beyond all previous agreements since this has been put together at the highest leadership levels in both organizations.

How significant the agreement is may be gauged by the fact that Amal Leader Nabih Birri, who came to Tehran for the 40th day ceremonies in the passing away of Imam Khomeini, extended his stay to continue talks here with Iranian officials. In the past few years, the relationship between Amal and Tehran was anything but steady and was subject to a series of fluctuations. In fact the Amal leadership seemed to skirt a closer relationship with Tehran without however coming into any kind of direct opposition or conflict with Iran. This avoidance of confrontation was only natural since Amal needed Iran's religious support among the Shia masses in Lebanon.

Today Tehran is considered as the main backer of the Shia world community, though the Islamic revolution of Iran has a wider scope which includes all Islamic schools of thought. For one [as published] Iran has made it a point to eradicate any kind of narrow thinking within its Foreign Ministry in regard to its approaches to problems in Lebanon. Earlier a certain narrowness of thinking consigned Iran to the position of a backer of a particular party in that country—a rather degrading role in comparison to one that should really have been the backing given to all the oppressed people in Lebanon. Now, fortunately, all this has changed, and nothing is further proof of this change than the agreement signed recently by no less than fourteen Lebanese and Palestinian anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist organizations.

It is almost certain that the signing of this pact can change to a marked degree the balance of power in Lebanon in favor of the Islamic forces and the Islamic nationalities there. Yet all these groups must stay warned that the Maronite forces and regional and international supporters can work during the next few weeks and months to undermine the new unity that is being achieved and create divisions in order to nullify the pact. These forces have been able to do this, and quite successfully too, during the past 14 years and should not be allowed to do the same again.

Receipt of Arms, Increase in Exercises Reported

JN3107080089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the Iranian authorities are currently forcing the Arab residents of Abadan, which overlooks the Shatt al-'Arab in the Ahvaz area, to sell their lands to Iranians. The Iranian authorities also issued strict orders to the security organs to ban the the Arab residents' return to the city. Some Abadan residents left their city for Iranian interior during the Iraq-Iran war. The Iranian regime agreed to grant Iranians, especially those from Esfahan and Shiraz, easy-term loans to be repayed in installments over 20 years. The Iranian authorities accused the residents of Abadan of helping Iraq during the war.

AL-WAFD has learned that Iran recently received large shipments of arms from North Korea, China, the Netherlands, and some Eastern bloc states. Moscow rejected a request by Hashemi-Rafsanjani to supply Iran with sophisticated Soviet MiG-29 and MiG-23 assault aircraft.

AL-WAFD has also learned that Iran has maintained the reserve forces operating within the Iranian Army and intensified military exercises by all its armed forces corps.

Greek Official Denies Problem With Granting Visas

LD0308014889 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Athens, Aug. 2, IRNA—A Greek Foreign Ministry official categorically denied that the government was following a policy of not granting visas to Iranian tourists. Speaking to IRNA Wednesday on condition of anonymity, the official stressed that Greece and Iran enjoyed very good political ties and hence there was no such issue of not granting visas.

"Greece, and perhaps two other EEC countries, maintain very good political relations with Iran and there is no such policy of not granting visas to Iranians," the official at the Middle East desk of the Greek Foreign Ministry said.

He explained the problem was more a technical one as the Greek Embassy in Tehran was understaffed and a lack of personnel hampered consular services.

An Iran Air source in Athens revealed to IRNA that the weekly jumbo flight from Tehran to Athens via Larnaca, Cyprus, would stop from next September due to lack of passengers. "The 500-seat airliner comes nearly empty to Athens as most of the passengers get off at Larnaca. The main problem is that Greece does not give visas to Iranians to visit Greece," he said. He requested not to be named.

He said Iran Air was planning to re-route the flight from Larnaca to Hamburg in West Germany instead of Athens. He however, added that if the visa problem was resolved the 747-jumbo jet flight may continue operating to Athens.

The Greek Foreign Ministry official said he was aware of the visa rush at the Greek Embassy in Tehran and added that the government was contemplating sending more staff to the embassy. He said he knew many Iranian tourists wanted to come to Greece because it was the closest European country. The official denied that Greece feared an influx of Iranian refugees if it eases visa regulations. "There is no relation at all with the issue of granting tourist visas with the problem of Iranian refugees," he assured IRNA.

During the Iran-Iraq war hundreds of Iranian refugees came illegally to Greece from Turkey seeking jobs or trying to migrate to the U.S. and other European countries. He said he hoped that the visa problem would soon be resolved.

Last week Greece's [as received] ambassador to Athens Habibullah Biazar met the general secretary of the Greek Foreign Ministry Kostas Yeoryiou [name as received] and discussed with him the visa problem.

An Iranian tourist operator in Athens said he had nearly finalized programs to bring Iranian tourist groups to Greece, but the visa problem blew his plans.

He said Iranian tourists in Cyprus spend hundreds of thousands of dollars every week. Nearly 200 Iranian tourists arrive on the weekly flight to Larnaca where they are granted a 15-day visa at the airport for the payment of one Cypriot pound (about 2 dlrs).

Nearly eight million tourists, including thousands from Arab countries, were expected to spend their holidays this summer in Greece.

Envoy Briefs Greek Official on Talks With Iraq

LD3107203289 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Athens, July 31, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Greece Habibullah Biazar met Greece's alternate Foreign Minister Yeorye Papoulias Monday and briefed him about the Iran-Iraq peace talks, an embassy source told IRNA.

Papoulias was surprised to learn that Iraq continued to occupy over 2,000 sq. kms. of Iranian territory and stressed that Greece has always supported efforts by the UN secretary general for a peaceful solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The Greek official once again expressed his country's total support for the implementation of Resolution 598 and said Greece was following with interest the progress of Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Biazar praised Greece's neutral stance during the eight year Iraqi-imposed war on Iran and hoped that Athens will continue its positive position for the peace talks to be successful.

Both men noted that bilateral relations between the two countries was good but room for improvement remained.

Papoulias, the new alternate foreign minister in the temporary coalition government, served as Greece's ambassador in Washington during Papandreou's government.

Tudeh Party Radio on Khomeyni-Montazeri Split
LD2807193689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Dear compatriots! The periodical NAMEH-E MARDOM the central organ of Iran's Tudeh Party, has published an extract from a letter written by Khomeyni to Ayatollah Montazeri which is indicative of a number of the internal problems of the regime.

In the introductory section of NAMEH-E MARDOM, there is a brief elaboration on Khomeyni's letter, and we draw your attention to both this elaboration and the extract of Khomeyni's letter to Ayatollah Montazeri:

Following the adoption of a stand by Ayatollah Montazeri concerning the massacre of political prisoners and the appearance of his words in the mass media of forces opposed to the regime, Khomeyni was extremely exasperated and wrote a strongly-worded letter to Ayatollah Montazeri. He asked Minister of Islamic Guidance Khatemi to publish it in the newspapers. Khatemi considered the publication of the letter as detrimental to the regime, and appealed to Hashemi-Rafsanjani to help persuade Khomeyni to deal with this matter through other means. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a number of the regime's leaders approached Khomeyni and persuaded him not to publish his letters and act through another means. This is what led to Montazeri's resignation.

Since the internal discord within the regime is very intense, Khomeyni's letter, too, like the rest of the regime's secrets, was leaked to the outside and changed hands among a number of elements within and around the government. Extracts from this letter which have reached us are being published:

Since, you yourself have said that you act according to my orders and views, I point out the following issues, to salvage you from the wrath of hell.
1. Do not interfere in political issues. Close down your assemblies and seminaries.
2. Make a public confession of your error.
3. Order the seminarians to deposit the religious dues in the office of Pasandideh [Khomeyni's brother] or my household.

I relate these points with a bleeding heart and burdened with agony. You have no legitimacy.
5. [Number as heard] I have made a pledge with God, to act according to religious obligation. By God from the start. I did not accept you as the deputy leader. By God, I did not vote for Bani-Sadr's presidency. By God, I did not approve of Bazargan's election. You have been detrimental to Islam. You gave away secrets of Islam to the global arrogance.
6. In the beginning, I considered you to be a simpleton, but now I do not consider you as wise.
7. May God take my life so that I no longer witness the treasons committed by friends.
8. Get rid of your household, so that they do not feed the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] with religious dues. The history of Islam is full of the ulema's treacheries against religion. Your intention is to bring the Munafeqin and the liberals into power.

Nateq-Nuri on Political Parties, Ahmad Khomeyni
LD3107181389 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—In the opinion of a senior parliamentarian time is not still ripe for initiating a political party system in Iran. "As long as memories of past bitter experiences exist in the minds of the Iranians it is really a difficult task to organise a political party in Iran," Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said. "Political parties betrayed the nation," he stated in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES published on Monday.

Nateq-Nuri was referring to the bitter memories of the 28 Mordad 1332 (August 19, 1953) coup against the nationalist government of the then prime minister Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq who was toppled in a CIA engineered plot. He said the coup created very many doubts about political parties in Iran and the Iranian nation had all reservations vis-a-vis the issue.

Commenting on the future of the Majlis after election of Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president, he said "maybe Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni will replace Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani."

Over 180 Majlis deputies in a letter after the imam's demise on June 3 requested Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni to join the Iranian parliament.

Nateq-Nuri said the imam's son had not responded to the request of the Majlis deputies positively yet but "there are indications that he might join the Iranian legislative body."

Talking about the future cabinet of President-elect Hashemi-Rafsanjani he said, Hashemi-Rafsanjani was keeping the entire matter "secret and all reports about the cabinet are just speculations."

"...Different political factions in Iran have presented lists of their choices for cabinet members and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani may give due consideration to their proposals," he said.

Editorial Comments on Relations With Japan
NC0208113589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Japan's New Party Can Mean Newer Approaches"]

[Excerpts] Japan after Sunday's Upper House elections has begun to reveal a crack in its rigid party makeup after 34 years. [passage omitted]

What will be most interesting for the Japanese from the outcome will be the emergence of a genuine two-party system and a more open political order. For us in Iran, who are also at the threshold of crucial changes in our political system and thinking, what will be of utmost significance is the possibility of dealing with a new government which can take a fresh look at things and hence of mutual dealings with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In recent weeks much has been centered in Iran-Japan affairs on the stalled Iran-Japan Petrochemical Complex (IJPC) project on which Iran is waiting to hear from Japan. This was a longterm project which has overshot its time period and which Japan has been dragging its feet over due to disagreement on terms. Iran has even toyed with the possibility of replacing Japan with South Korea, or some other industrial county capable to completing the project. Tehran's impatience is understandable but it need not mean a complete breakdown of ongoing negotiations to complete the work.

Iran wants to get working as quickly and as efficiently as possible with its plans not only in the IJPC project but with all its overall reconstruction plans to make up for lost time. It has to be understood, therefore, that it will not hesitate to invite any one who can help in this direction but without compromising on its defied policies and ideological principles.

Japan's new government when it is set in place, it is hoped will review its entire position in relations with Iran and forge a closer and highly beneficial movement in mutual relations with this country.

We think that the officials of Iran will welcome the cooperation of new Japanese Government in the field of the IJPC and other bilateral issues.

Flag of Freedom 'Combatants' Broadcast in Tehran

LD3107143889 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Our sources in Tehran report that through a courageous initiative made by the combatants of the Flag of Freedom Organization, they succeeded in taking over [as heard] the FM wave-length of the Islamic Republic's radio, on several occassions from 2000-2300 on Thursday, 28 July, and broadcast their message to many homes in Tehran.

The message of the combatants of the Flag of Freedom Organization called on the Iranian people to boycott the presidential elections and the referendum on constitutional amendments, and to refrain from participating in the voting.

Statement on 5 Aug Anniversary

LD3107140189 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] An important statement by the Flag of Freedom on the anniversary of 14 Mordad [5 August 1906 Constitutional revolution].

Dear compatriots, men, women, youths, the freedom-seeking people of Iran. Our fathers irrigated the constitutional revolution with their blood so as to enable us to stride along today's path of progress. For years, the ideals of constitutionalism were purused, through the Iranian people's sacrifices. However, with the coming to power of the velayat-e faqih [rule of jurisconsult] republic, that trend of progress toward an affluent (?independent) and free society was halted.

Today, in order to show that you still support freedom and the law, you should celebrate the anniversary of the constitutional revolution. The followers of constitutionalism and devotees of Iran will celebrate the anniversary of the durability of the Constitution in tribute to the [word indistinct] of 5 August and in honor of intrepid heroes such as Satar Khan and Baqer Khan.

Dear compatriots, celebrate the anniversary of Iran's constitutional revolution on the eve of 5 August that is on Friday 4 August, from 1800-2100 in the main squares of all cities. In Tehran, the celebrations of the anniversary of the constitutional revolution will take place in Shahyad Square [now called Azadi Square] from 1800-2100 on Friday 4 August.

The Organization of the Flag of Freedom calls on all compatriots to participate in the celebrations honoring this great day, and to show their devotion to the ideals of constitutionalism by appearing in the main squares of all cities.

Khuzestan Governor General Views Reconstruction

NC3107083089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The State Committee for Foreign Exchange Allocations has allocated $22 million in foreign exchange for the completion of development projects and for supplying spare parts and material needed by factories in Khuzestan Province.

This was stated by the Khuzestan governor general during a news conference yesterday. He added that this amount is in addition to the amount approved for the current year budget.

The Central News Unit reports that the Khuzestan governor general commented on the process of reconstruction in the province and said: So far, reconstruction of more than 4,500 housing units in Abadan and villages east of Bahmanshir River, as well as 1,200 housing units in Bostan and the liberated villages in Dasht-e Azadegan

has started. He also added: Civil servants in Abadan and Khorramshahr, as well as the guilds whose participation in the reconstruction of Abadan is necessary, can apply for reconstruction of their houses without checking if the area has been announced.

The Khuzestan governor general also stated that 6 billion rials have been earmarked for the employment of the province's combatants and that Bank Melli has also earmarked another 1 billion more rials for this purpose. He said that a secretariat for the employment of combatants in offices and institutions has been set up for this purpose, and that priority will be granted to ensuring the necessary manpower from among the families of martyrs, combatants, and the disabled. The Khuzestan governor general also announced that 2,000 building plots are to be placed at the disposal of the families of the combatants which meet the requirements.

War-Damaged Power Plant Resumes Operation

LD0108112189 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., Aug. 1, IRNA—The third damaged unit of the Martyr Salimi (Neka) power plant was reconnected to the national power network after reconstruction by Iranian experts. The unit, damaged in Iraqi raids, will boost energy production of the three operating units to more than 1,140 mega watts.

Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh who was present at a special ceremony at the power plant Tuesday said the fourth and only remaining damaged unit will be repaired by the end of the current year (ends March 21, 1990). The plant is located at Neka on the Caspian Sea northeast of Tehran. Each of its four units has a nominal capacity of 440 mw.

Namdar-Zangeneh said electricity output by the country's power plants reached a record level Saturday night with production reaching more than 8,000 mw.

Population Increases by 19 Million in Last Decade

LD3107182189 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—More than 19 million has been added to Iran's population from March 21, 1979 to March 20, 1988, Civil Status Registration Organization has reported.

The birth rate in Iran has had an ascending trend since the victory of the Islamic revolution, adding an average of 1,909,454 individuals to the country's population annually, said the organization. During the said period 1,909,004 people passed away, 3,541,036 couples got married, and 313,690 couples divorced, it said.

Narcotic Smugglers Arrested in Kerman Province

LD0108130189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Three big narcotics smuggler gangs were smashed and armed outlaws were captured in the regions of Jiroft, Sirjan, and north of Kerman by Islamic Revolution Committee officials of Kerman Province. According to an IRNA report, the intelligence and operations deputy of the Islamic Revolution and the Abu Zar checkpoint outpost in Kerman province, announcing this piece of news said that those arrested in the Sirjan Region, in the preliminary interrogations, admitted to possessing more than 1,500 kg of narcotics and participation in clashes, armed robbery, and kidnappings. A narcotics smuggler ring north of Kerman was also destroyed. One member admitted to possessing and distributing more than 5 tonnes of narcotics. This person, who has been an outlaw for 10 years, also possessed seven weapons, which were confiscated.

The intelligence and operations deputy of the Kerman Islamic Revolution Committee said that two members of the armed convoys in Jiroft, who have been recently arrested, played a prominent role in five cases of armed clashes and possessed more than 10,200 kg of narcotics in the townships of Minab, Shiraz, Dar Ab, Fasa, Sirjan, and Tehran Province. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Minister Regrets India's Disinterest in Talks

BK0308001689 Hong Kong AFP in English 2026 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 2 (AFP)—Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya said Wednesday [2 August] he regretted India's lack of interest in Nepal's offer to discuss the current impasse between the two countries, Nepal Television reported.

Mr Upadhyaya was speaking in the National Panchayat (Parliament) in response to statements by two legislators that criticized India's "unfriendly steps" against Nepal.

They blamed New Delhi for causing great hardship on the Nepalese people and for setting back the country's development plans after bilateral trade and transit treaties were allowed to expire in March.

Mr Upadhyaya told Parliament that Nepal had made constant efforts to break the diplomatic deadlock, but that India had not replied to his June 26 proposal for talks at an early date.

The two parliamentarians, Rajeswhor Devkota and former prime minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, also criticized India's state media for "baseless and undesirable attacks" on the Nepalese crown and the country's partyless panchayat system.

India Detains More Oil Tankers at Border

BK0208002889 Hong Kong AFP in English 2149 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 1 (AFP)—A senior Nepalese official said Tuesday [1 August] that India had detained 160 trucks and oil tankers for allegedly trying to smuggle fuel into Nepal across a border transit point. By evening, 67 of the trucks had been released after being detained for 30 hours at Jogbani 380 kilometers southeast of here, the customs official said. He added that they had been blocked on charges of carrying excess diesel in service tanks to sell at a higher price across the border.

Indian customs officials have assured Nepal that the remaining 93 vehicles would be released Wednesday, the official said.

India has closed 19 trade routes and 13 of the 15 transit points on the Indo-Nepalese border since March 23, when 1978 bilateral trade and transit treaties expired. The action has resulted in shortages of goods in this landlocked nation.

Also Tuesday, a Foreign Ministry source said that the port in Calcutta has kept its Budge Budge docks closed, ostensibly for repair and maintenance. The docks are used for re-exports of goods to Nepal and have been closed since last month.

The Foreign Ministry source said that if India did not allow vessals at Budge Budge to be loaded with petroleum products in next two days, oil imports for August would be "seriously affected." "We have requested the chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust to allow at least one jetty of the eight total jetties at the Budge Budge dock area (to function) so that Nepal-bound petroleum products might not be disrupted," the source said.

Nepal had planned to import 225,000 to 250,000 metric tons of petroleum products through Calcutta in the fiscal year started July 16.

Indian Port Closure Causes Fuel Rationing

BK2907011989 Hong Kong AFP in English 2129 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Kathmandu, July 28 (AFP)—Motorists in Nepal formed queues of up to a mile long at petrol stations Friday [28 July] following a government announcement that supplies would be restricted because of the closure of the Indian port of Calcutta.

Long lines began forming late Thursday and all day Friday as motorists, already faced with shortages of fuel, tried to fill up before government restrictions take effect.

The rush to petrol stations was prompted by the announcement in Parliament Thursday by minister of state for local supply, Nara Bahadur Budhathoki, that the government had maintained reserve supplies of petroleum products.

The Indian Government decided this week to close the port, which lies 800 kilometres (490 miles) southeast of here, for an unspecified period for renovation work. The closure of the port, the nearest one to Nepal, is expected to further disrupt supplies of petroleum products into the country, already affected by a unilateral border blockade imposed by India following the expiration March 23 of trade and transit treaties with Nepal which have yet to be renegotiated.

The Nepalese Government has announced a decision to control the selling and distribution of petroleum products until the renovation is completed. The state-run Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) Friday told all petrol stations to sell a maximum of 10 litres (two gallons) of petrol to private cars and taxis, 20 litres of diesel to minibuses operating inside Kathmandu and 100 litres of diesel to buses on long-haul routes outside the capital. Sales of kerosene were also limited to three litres per person. The NOC also instructed stations not to sell petroleum products on Saturdays.

The controls come less than 12 days after prices on petroleum products were raised by the government by between 18 and 50 per cent and the lifting of a ban on the sale of such products imposed after the March 23 Indian border blockade.

Economic Commission Session With Pakistan Begins

BK2707041989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The third session of Pakistan-Nepal joint economic commission has begun in Kathmandu. Ehsanul Haq Piracha, minister of state for finance and economic affairs who is representing Pakistan at the meeting, has made new offers of cooperation including the provision of various types of machinery and consumer goods to Nepal, as well as joint ventures and technical know-how. He proposed that both countries should determine the targets of their bilateral trade so as to expand commercial ties. He also offered a $1 million loan on simple terms to Nepal to enable it to buy machinery from Pakistan.

Nepalese Finance Minister Mr Bharat Bahadur Pradhan lauded Pakistan for its offer and said the government of Nepal will allocate the Pakistani loan to the private sector. He said that after the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960, there has been improvement in bilateral relations between Pakistan and Nepal. Pakistan and Nepal are determined to promote the ideals of regional cooperation through SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. The minister said that

Nepal's efforts toward development have been hindered by the commercial tension with India. Nepal was making considerable progress after the devastating earthquake last August, but following this March the situation worsened due to the deadlock in trade and transit with India.

Mr Pradhan said he greatly appreciated Pakistan's sympathy and support during Nepal's extremely difficult times.

The Pakistani minister of state for finance expressed Pakistan's sincere hope and desire that Nepal will soon overcome the existing hardships. He assured Nepal of all possible assistance and support from Pakistan.

Pakistan's Piracha Holds Talks

BK2807035289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Mr Ehsanul Haq Piracha, Pakistan's minister of state for finance and economic affairs, held talks with the Nepalese Prime Minister Man Singh Shrestha in Kathmandu yesterday on bilateral relations and economic cooperation between the two countries. Mr Piracha informed the prime minister that Pakistan wants to help Nepal with its economic development programs.

The Pakistani minister also met with Nepal's Tourism Minister Dr Mohammad Moshin. The two exchanged views on the possibilities of promoting tourism between the two countries.

Mr Piracha is expected to hold talks with Nepal's minister of state for finance and economic affairs today, at which time he will sign an agreement on Pakistan's loan to Nepal.

AFP Details Meeting

BK2807142089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 27 Jul 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, July 28 (AFP)—The third meeting of the Nepal-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission ended here Friday with agreement to take concrete steps towards increased economic cooperation in the coming months.

The Nepalese delegation to the three-day meeting was headed by Finance Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan. Minister of State for Finance Ehsanul Haq Piracha led the Pakistani delegation to the meeting, the first since 1984.

Discussions focused on cooperation in industry and trade, agriculture, technical cooperation, civil aviation and tourism, the two sides said in a joint statement released Friday. They said it had been agreed to take steps over the next few months to achieve "substantive economic cooperation."

At the final session, delegation leaders signed an agreement under which Pakistan will extend a $1 million U.S. loan to Nepal. "This credit agreement opens up new areas of bilateral cooperation between Nepal and Pakistan," Mr Pradhan said.

The meeting comes amid a trade dispute between Nepal and its largest trading partner India sparked by the expiration trade and transit treaties in March.

The Nepalese finance minister said Friday that Nepal was facing "serious economic problems" as a result of the trade dispute with India. "This impasse unequivocally underscored the need to diversify Nepal's trade," he said.

"Trade between Nepal and Pakistan has a long history although organized trade is very modest," he said. "It is therefore urgent for both our countries to work more closely and intensively to expand our bilateral trade."

Mr Piracha said Pakistan would make earnest efforts to help Nepal overcome its economic difficulties.

During his stay here, Mr Piracha held talks with Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha on the prospects of increasing bilateral trade.

"Both sides reviewed and expressed their satisfaction over progress achieved in the implementation of programmes agreed at its last session held in Islamabad five years ago," the joint statement said.

"The two sides also noted that cooperation in different areas has developed to the mutual benefit," it said, adding that the next meeting would be held in the Pakistani capital next year.

Mr Piracha said Thursday that trade between Nepal and Pakistan had gone from $600,000 in the 1984-85 financial year to $2.5 million in 1987-88.

The eight-member Pakistani delegation was to leave here for Dhaka later Friday.

$1 Million Loan Agreement Signed

BK2907012489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan has agreed to provide Nepal with a loan of $1 million to import electrical products and other goods. An agreement to this effect was signed by the Nepalese finance minister, Mr Bharat Bahadur Pradhan, and the Pakistan minister of state for finance and economic affairs, Mr Ehsanul Haq Piracha, in Kathmandu today. It came at the end of the third meeting of the Nepal-Pakistan joint economic commission, which began on Wednesday [26 July]. The loan is repayable in 25 years, including a grace period of 5 years.

Meanwhile, industrialists and businessmen of Pakistan and Nepal have discussed ways to augment trade between the two countries. Pakistani industrialists and businessmen accompanying the minister of state for finance informed their Nepalese counterparts that Pakistan could assist Nepal in the transfer of technology, technical services, setting up of joint venture and industrial training. The Nepalese businessmen spoke of prospects in importing a number of items, including cement, sugar, and cotton yarn from Pakistan.

King Meets Pakistani Minister

BK2907013389 Hong Kong AFP in English 2054 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Kathmandu, July 28 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal Friday granted an audience to visiting Pakistani minister of state for finance and economic affairs, Ehsanul Haq Piracha, Nepal Television (NTV) said.

During the audience the two discussed bilateral economic and political relations and the proposed visit to Nepal by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto next month in her capacity as chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Pakistani sources said.

Nepalese finance minister, Bharat Bahadur Pradhan, Nepal's ambassador to Pakistan, Arjun Narsingh Rana, and Pakistan's ambassador to Nepal, Mohammad Ziaul Haq, were also present at the meeting, NTV said.

Mr. Piracha was later seen off on his departure for Dhaka by minister of state for commerce, Sharad Singh Bhandari and other senior officials from Nepal's Finance Ministry.

Earlier Mr. Piracha took part in the second and final round of talks of the joint economic commission with Mr. Pradhan. The first round of talks in the first meeting of the commission in five years were held Wednesday. The two discussed ways of developing bilateral cooperation in the areas of economics, tourism, industry and trade, official sources said.

Mr. Piracha and Mr. Pradhan also signed an agreement for a one million U.S. dollar loan by Pakistan, repayable in 25 years at an annual interest rate of two per cent, the sources said.

On Wednesday Mr. Piracha also held talks with Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha on bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

Commission Issues Closing Statement

BK2907034389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan and Nepal have signed an agreement under which both countries will expand economic cooperation and Pakistan will provide a loan of $1 million to Nepal. The agreement was signed at the concluding session of the Pakistan-Nepal joint economic commission, which ended in Kathmandu yesterday.

The Nepalese finance minister, Mr Pradhan, said this agreement will open up new vistas of bilateral cooperation. He said, as a result of the commercial tension with India, Nepal has faced severe economic difficulties and this situation has necessitated increasing commercial ties with other countries.

At the meeting, cooperation in the fields of industry and commerce, agriculture, technology, civil aviation, and tourism was also discussed.

The Pakistani delegation was led by the minister of state for finance, Mr Ehsanul Haq Piracha, and the Nepalese side by Bharat Bahadur Pradhan. The minister of state for finance, Ehsanul Haq Piracha, said Pakistan will make sincere efforts to assist Nepal in overcoming its economic difficulties.

A joint statement issued after the commission meeting said the two sides reviewed the consensus on the programs reached at the commission meeting in Islamabad 5 years ago and expressed satisfaction with progress in the implementation of those programs. The next meeting will be held in the Pakistani capital next year.

Civil Aviation, Tourism Talks With USSR Conclude

BK2907011389 Hong Kong AFP in English 2152 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Kathmandu, July 28 (AFP)—Nepal's civil aviation authorities and officials from the Soviet Union ended Friday [28 July] four days of talks on a draft agreement for the Soviet airline Aeroflot to operate a route to Kathmandu, officials said.

The four-member Soviet delegation headed by the Deputy Director of the Soviet Union's Civil Aviation Department, A.A. Gonchar met with a Nepalese delegation headed by the director general of the Department of Civil Aviation, Lalit Bikram Shah, the official sources said. Discussions centred on cooperation in the field of civil aviation and the development of tourism and trade between the two countries.

During the talks Nepal suggested that Aeroflot operate a regular commercial service between Moscow and Kathmandu via Tashkent and China which would provide a shorter route to Nepal than the current service via Tehran and Bombay, the sources said.

After the draft is approved by both governments, a formal agreement will be signed in Moscow within the next two months, the sources said.

The Soviet Union would be the 11th country with whom Nepal plans to sign an agreement allowing regular flights by each countries' national carrier.

The Royal Nepal Airline Corporation would not, however, start operating flights to Moscow immediately after the agreement was signed, although Aeroflot would begin immediate flights, the sources said without giving details.

Pakistan

Papers Report Casualties From 31 Jul Scud Attack

BK0308003689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 2 (AFP)—At least 11 people were killed when a long-range surface-to-surface Scud missile fired by Kabul forces landed in the eastern Afghan province of Paktia, the Pakistani press said Wednesday. The missile hit Kharlogy village in the Jaji area near the border with Pakistan on Monday, killing nine members of one family on the spot. Two other people died of injuries in a hospital, the reports said.

They added that those killed were all civilians who had recently returned to Afghanistan after spending several years in an Afghan refugee camp in the bordering Kurram area of Pakistan.

Bhutto: Government To Privatize Major Industries

BK0208124389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 2 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, apparently taking inspiration from British counterpart Margaret Thatcher's economic model, said Wednesday her government would privatise some major industries by July 1990.

"Our government has embarked on an era of liberalisation and deregulation of the economy in general and industry in particular," she said in a speech at a seminar on privatisation and investment here.

Ms. Bhutto, taking a cue from Mrs. Thatcher's much-publicised "popular capitalism" policy, said she had decided "to undertake privatisation in favour of small shareholders."

"Instead of regulations and controls, we want competition and other market factors to check against rapacious tendencies," she stressed.

The country's major banks and industries were nationalised by her late father Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the mid 1970s. But she said privatisation was an important part of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) manifesto. She did not identify the projects to be handed over to the private sector.

A local daily, THE MUSLIM, said late last month that Ms. Bhutto was considering ending state control for seven top enterprises on the advice of the World Bank's International Finance Corp. (IFC) and the British firm N.M. Rothschild.

The Rothchild-IFC report proposed that the national flag carrier Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Pakistan State Oil, National Refinery, Habib Bank, Muslim Commercial Bank and two projects of the Sui Gas Company be privatised. It said Sui Gas Company's project for the distribution of the huge natural gas reserves in the southern region was the "most likely candidate" to be the first company privatised within the next nine months.

The government might float up to 50 percent of its shares to attract some 300,000 shareholders, which could raise up to 1,500 million rupees (70 million dollars), the newspaper said.

Ms. Bhutto said some industries would be fully privatised while the government would retain a 50 percent interest in others. "Management of the privatised industries would certainly be changed and work force of the industry would be given 30 percent first-preference (for) shares," she explained. The move would enable the skill and enterprise of the people to flourish and "would be an opportunity to restructure our industry to make it more efficient and more responsive to the consumer," she said.

Ms. Bhutto added that the policy of transforming the investment climate by stimulating mass share ownership has been used by many countries.

The IFC-Rothschild report had warned that the privatisation process could encounter problems, and envisaged several pieces of legislations to ensure consumers are protected against excessive price rises.

But she said she would insure that the control of prices and uninterrupted supply of critical services to the people would be kept in mind before privatisation.

May 1990 Privatization Announced

BK0208161089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said that the first phase of privatization of public enterprises in the country will be launched by May next year. She was inaugurating in Islamabad this morning a national seminar on privatization and investment organized by the Ministry of Industries in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program [UNDP]. Ms Benazir Bhutto said there will focus on those government-owned industries, corporations, and businesses which are making money, particularly in the first phase of privatization. It is important that the benefits reach all shareholders. The prime minister said the purpose of

privatization is not to handover nationalized industry to big business, but to achieve a broad-based ownership and to create thousands of share holders by selling a percentage of shares to small investors. We expect that every citizen, including government employees, workers of autonomous organizations and members of parliament, will come forward and buy shares to participate in the national reconstruction process. The idea was that the people should be able to feel that they are owners of national industrial units and institutions and should contribute to their growth.

The prime minister said the public enterprises are being given to the private sector because it is felt that they are not being run efficiently. This will also provide an opportunity for reconstruction of our industries which will lead to meeting consumer demands better and greatly help in transforming our capital market for investment. This has been done in other countries and it should meet with success in Pakistan as well.

The prime minister reaffirmed the government's pledge regarding the protection of workers rights and said we have taken care that some percentage of shares is reserved in each privatized industry for the workers. She said we are of firm belief that the workers who make the industry profitable through their hard work should reap its benefits. However, most of shares will be given to the general public.

Referring to investments, Ms Benazir Bhutto said 10 billion rupees worth of foreign investment had flowed in over the past 6 months as a result of the policy measures taken by the present government. This compares with the figure of 4.7 billion for the corresponding period last year. She recounted the incentives for investment provided by the government and said it is now up to the private sector to come forward and benefit from them. The government wants to lift restrictions on the growth of industries. Except for seven industries all others sectors have been opened for the private investment. There is no need to get a license for industrial investment up to 1 billion rupees with foreign shares less than 50 percent. The industrialists will not have to go around many places because the schemes will be essentially approved within 7 days. All industries set up in key sectors within next 4 years will be given a tax holiday and units set up in less developed areas a will be given tax holiday for 8 years. [passage omitted]

Minister of State for Defense Returns From Iran

BK2907065589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, has returned to Islamabad after a 9-day visit to Iran. During his visit, he met with Iranian leaders, including the prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, and exchanged views with them on matters pertaining to bilateral cooperation and benefiting from each other's technical expertise. They also signed an agreement on setting up a joint ministerial commission aimed at expanding cooperation between Pakistan and Iran in military training and the defense industry sector.

Editorial Assesses Cooperation With India

BK2707150189 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Cooperation With India"]

[Text] In a Radical departure from the old policy of promoting India-Pakistan relations through largely official contacts, the two governments have decided to transfer the onus to their respective people. That seems to be the upshot of the third meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), on the basis of reports submitted by its four sub-commissions. In a period in which more and more is expected of non-governmental organizations, and the people are expected to have a larger role in public affairs around the world, it is probably prudent that it has now been left to people on both sides to build new bridges of understanding and cooperation between their countries who have fought three wars. Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao of India has descirbed the agreement as a breakthrough in cooperation between the two countries, and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has warmly welcomed the new turn in bilateral relations.

The JMC has not only identified many new areas of cooperation or for enlarging those already active, but has also specified the extent of cooperation to be achieved in the immediate future. Besides the normal meetings of officials; there are to be exchanges of delegations of businessmen and industrialists; economic experts; men of culture, including printers, musicians and folk dancers, fellowships for scholars on both sides; and facilities for visits by tourists and pilgrims are to be expanded a good deal.

In the economic sphere, while there is no bar in India on importing from Pakistan anything importable from other countries, Pakistan has now added 322 items which can be imported from India by the private sector. The total of such items which can be imported from India now comes to about 600. At a time when Pakistan has devalued its currency a great deal and India has also substantially devalued its rupee, importing from India can be profitable for Pakistan. The decisions to set up a joint business council, to participate in each other's trade fairs and to exchange delegations of businessmen and industrialists should also help expand economic cooperation between the two neighbours.

The exchange of ideas in respect of economic planning and development can certainly be helpful to both the governments. Similarly the proposed seminars on population growth, mobilisation of savings and on local planning can be beneficial; as also can be the exchange of ideas in respect of agriculture through the two seminars

to be held on both sides. The two countries have problems of low agricultural yields despite the improvements achieved in recent years. Sharing their ideas, experiences and expertise can be useful to both. The proposed convention for avoidance of double taxation is a right step in the right direction if industrial and commercial cooperation is to increase appreciably.

It is in the area of cultural exchanges where largescale expansion is sought following the protocol signed by the two countries and the three-year cultural exchange programme agreed upon now. Providing fellowships to students on both sides and exchange of educationalists, historians, scientists, etc., should strengthen the cultural bonds. While the TV and radio stations on both sides are to exchange agreed programmes, and sports exchanges are to be stepped up, both sides are also to participate in each other's film festivals and exchange film delegations.

The logic of increased cooperation in all these spheres may not be disputed. However, it is evident that enhanced people-to-people interaction can help improve the political climate only if the factors of friction which have soured bilateral relations are also tackled. the long outstanding issue of Kashmir and the more recent addition of the Siachen question are both areas involving deep popular sentiments in Pakistan. There is also a host of other fields about which the people at large have strong apprehensions.

Unless these aspects of discord are at least seen to be heading towards just and durable resolution, any amount of increased economic or cultural exchange is not likely to go a long way in marking a real beginning in bilateral ties. Also, on the question of trade with India, business and industrial circles in Pakistan have voiced an understandable concern over the proposed opening of this country's market to more Indian goods. India's manufacturing sector, through not much more diversified than that of Pakistan, enjoys a clear edge over the latter's products in terms of both quality and price-competitiveness. That involves the question of providing incentives or otherwise for Pakistan's nascent industries.

Junejo Accuses Government of Seeking 'Vengeance'
BK0308000689 Hong Kong AFP in English 2249 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 2 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo Wednesday accused the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of pursuing a policy of vengeance against leaders of the previous regime.

Addressing a meeting of several hundred workers of his Pakistan Muslim League (PML) Party in this northwestern Pakistani city, Mr Junejo criticised the government for arresting former military governor Fazle Haq in a murder case.

General Haq is a leader of the PML and a former army officer closely linked with the late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq.

He was jailed on July 22 after the Peshawar High Court rejected a request for bail in the murder case of Shiite leader Arif Hussain al-Hussaini in August last year.

Mr Junejo said "we will prove that Mr Haq is not involved" in the murder and accused the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of pursuing a policy of revenge against former leaders. "We will defend Gen Fazle Haq," Mr Junejo told the party meeting, which demanded Gen Haq's immediate release.

Earlier, Mr Junejo met for more than one hour with Gen Haq in the central Peshawar jail. Former parliamentary speaker Hamid Nasir Chattha and PML Secretary General Iqbal Ahmed Khan were also present.

Mr Junejo told reporters that Gen Haq was in "a good mood and confident" as he faces trial.

Gen Haq's latest petition to challenge his detention will come up for a hearing here on August 12.

PML activists and other supporters of Gen Haq have staged several rallies to demand his release.

Iranian Envoy Attends Martyr Anniversary Ceremony
LD2707135989 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Peshawar, July 27, IRNA—Ayatollah Mohyeddin Anvari special representative of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i attended a ceremony marking the first martyrdom anniversary of Pakistani Shiite Muslim leader, Allamah Arif Husseini at Iran's culture house, Wednesday [26 July]

In his address, the ayatollah paid tribute to Husseini who was gunned down on July 25 while returning from the dawn prayer. He also appealed to Pakistani and Afghan Muslims for unity stressing that it is the key to victory in anti-imperialist campaign.

The assassination is still under probe, and last Sunday it took a new turn when Fazle Haq, who was the provincial governor at the time of murder, was arrested by Pakistani authorities on charges of a plot to kill Arif Husseini.

Meanwhile, Ayatollah Anvari met with a group of Pakistani Muslims, later in the day. During the ayatollah's stay in Pakistan, a special mourning ceremony will be held for the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

In related news, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hassan Ibrahimi, the leader's representative to the 8-party Afghan coalition, who is also here for the ceremonies, met with a group of Afghan Shiite and Sunni Muslims here Wednesday. During the meeting problems of the groups were discussed.

Ishaq Khan Greets Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Election
LD0208085389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan on Tuesday met Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the president of that country and had talks with him.

According to the IRNA report the president of Pakistan offered his congratulations on the occasion of the election of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the president of the Republic of Iran. He also congratulated the positive vote of the people of our country to the reappraisal of the Constitution.

The report said that Ishaq Khan also called for expansion of existing bilateral relations.

Bhutto Promises Relief in Flooded Areas of Punjab
BK0108160889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has promised to do everything possible in carrying out relief operations in the flood-affected areas of Punjab Province. In a message to the Nawaz Sharif, chief minister of Punjab Province, the prime minister expressed profound grief and sorrow over the destruction caused by floods and also expressed heartfelt sympathy for the bereaved families. Benazir Bhutto has directed the relevant federal government officials to immediately contact the Punjab government to ascertain the amount of assistance required, and she has also provided a helicopter to the Punjab government for relief operations. The federal government has offered to provide relief goods and financial assistance as required by the Punjab government.

The Punjab government has taken all possible precautionary measures and has made comprehensive arrangements to deal with the situation arising out of floods. Ashrad Khan Lodhi, provincial minister for relief and revenue, told a news conference in Lahore today that a high-level committee has been set up to monitor the flood situation and to supervise the flood warning and forecasting works and relief operations.

The minister said that rains and floods have taken eight lives in Sialkot and Gujranwala districts so far. The number of villages affected by the floods include 170 in Sialkot, 95 in Gujarat, and 117 in Gujranwala districts. Standing crops on about 30,000 acres of land have been damaged in these three districts.

Amnesty International Group Meets Justice Minister
BK0308040289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] A 4-member Amnesty International delegation, led by its Secretary General, Ian Martin, called on the federal minister for law and justice, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, in Islamabad yesterday. The delegation was informed of steps taken by the government for the protection of human rights in the country. The delegation was also informed that there is total freedom of expression and that nobody is detained on the basis of political alignment and ideology.

Commerce Minister on Rice Exports to Iran, Syria
BK3007154589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan will export 240,000 tons of Basmati [high quality fragrant] rice to Iran and Syria this year. Negotiations are under way for export of an additional 100,000 tons of rice to Iran. This was stated by Federal Commerce Minister Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat at a news conference on his return to Islamabad this evening after visiting Iran, Syria, and the United Kingdom.

The commerce minister said that the Iranian authorities have expressed keen interest in promoting economic and trade ties with Pakistan. He said the Pakistani side underscored the need for bringing the Iran-Pakistan economic and trade ties up to the level of the close relationship which the two countries enjoy in the political field.

Under a long-term agreement signed with Syria, Pakistan will export 120,000 tons of Basmati rice to Syria annually. The two countries have also established a joint ministerial commission, the commerce minister added.

Oil Discovered at Exploratory Well Near Islamabad
BK3107164089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Oil has been discovered at Bhangali, about 30 miles from Islamabad. The well is producing about 3,000 barrels of oil and 4 million cubic feet of gas per day. It is an exploratory well in the (?same) block being drilled by a joint venture of the Occidental and the OGDC [Oil and Gas Development Corporation].

Heroin Seized From UNHCR Vehicle 2 Aug
BK0308002289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1827 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 2 (AFP)—Pakistani customs Wednesday seized 15 kilograms of heroin powder from a jeep belonging to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and arrested its driver,

the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported. The drug recovered was of superior quality and was worth millions of dollars on the black market, the official agency said.

APP said the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board was tipped off that a UNHCR vehicle would be used to smuggle a large quantity of heroin to Punjab from North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan, apparently for shipment abroad.

The Narcotics Board collaborated with customs to erect special checkpoints at the highway town of Hassan Abdal 40 kilometers north of here.

A white Toyota jeep belonging to UNHCR arrived there past midnight along with an escort pilot car, ignored a signal to halt and tried to escape in the darkness.

After a chase, a raiding party intercepted the jeep and discovered the contraband concealed in secret cavities, APP said. The jeep's original license plates had been replaced with false plates, it added.

The news agency said the occupant of the vehicle, a Pakistani, was arrested, and a case was also registered against two occupants of the pilot car.

It did not say if UNHCR was involved in the investigation or if any U.N. Officials were suspected of involvement in the case.

UNHCR looks after some three million Afghan refugees settled in border provinces in Pakistan.

No comment on the case was immediately available from the organisation.

Sri Lanka

Bomb Explosions, Gunfire Rock Colombo 2 Aug

BK0208143689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 2 (AFP)—A series of bomb explosions followed by gunfire Wednesday rocked the Sri Lankan capital about an hour before an island-wide night curfew was to go into effect, residents said.

At least two to three blasts and exchanges of small arms fire were heard from Havelock town, a residential area in the heart of the city, residents said over the telephone.

"I heard one blast a short while ago and I can also hear gunfire," said one resident, who lives about a kilometre from the area from where the sound of the explosions and firing appeared to be located. Other residents reported hearing two to three explosions.

Police officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

The blasts and gunfire came an hour before an island-wide night curfew was to go into effect at 8.00 p.m. (1430 GMT). The curfew was imposed midnight Thursday and first lifted Sunday morning. Since then, every night there has been a curfew throughout Sri Lanka to prevent violence by anti-government militants.

6 Policemen Injured

BK0208160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Three blasts rocked three different areas in Colombo this evening shortly before the night curfew was clamped at 2000. The blasts, almost simultaneous, were reported from Pettah and Borella areas and in front of police field force headquarters on Havelock Road in the city. The police sources told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that there has been some firing at the police post after the explosion. At least six police constables were injured and some passers by were also wounded in the blast. Further details of casualties in the other two blasts are awaited.

12 Killed in Separate Violent Incidents

BK0208162689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Violent incidents in Sri Lanka have claimed at least 12 lives—five in the Northeastern Province and seven in central and southern Sri Lanka. The victims included a member of the Northeastern Provincial Council, Mr Uttaman. The incidents in northeast Sri Lanka followed the killing of a member of a Tamil group. Police sources said the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] was responsible for the killings in central and south Sri Lanka.

In other incidents, a two-story shopping complex in Colombo was destroyed in a fire. At least 25 shops were gutted. No casualty has been reported in the fire which broke out last night.

Bangladesh Wishes Success in Talks With India

BK0208131589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs of Bangladesh, Anisul Islam Mahmud, has conveyed the sincere good wishes of the government and the people of Bangladesh for the success of negotiations now under way in India regarding the withdrawal of the Indian peacekeeping force. Addressing his message to the Indian external affairs minister, Narasimha Rao, and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who are undertaking the negotiations, the Bangladesh minister says he is confident that the recognized ability, experience, and diplomatic acumen of the two ministers will serve the cause of peace both between India and Sri Lanka and the region as a whole. He says that this is in keeping with the spirit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.